PAGESETTER

The George Perez Magazine

#12

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Special Theatre Issue

...and more!

FOR PÉREZ FANS • • BY PÉREZ FANS

PACESETTER The George Pérez Magazine

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This issue is devoted, in part, to George's fantastic work with The Moonlight Players, a Clermont, Florida, based dramatic production company dear to George and Carol.

NEXT ISSUE'S THEME:
Team books. Whether it's the Avengers, the Titans, Justice League, Legion of Super Heroes, or something else... clearly George Pérez shines when he works with team books What are your favorites? Why? *Send responses to TlorenzP@yahoo.com.*

Dirty Rotten Scoundels cover art colorized by Annette White

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PACESETTER
The George Pérez Magazine

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FOR PÉREZ FANS • • BY PÉREZ FANS

F • R • O • M T • H • E P • U • B • L • I • S • H • E • R

Hi Pérez fans

Welcome Pérez fans to another great issue of *PACESETTER*. This issue's theme is... the "no-theme issue."

Obviously if you are reading this, you've ordered this issue and at the very least given $1.00 to the Moonlight Theatre Group. See Tabitha's excellent article in this issue for more info about the theater. There are other ways to give to Moonlight Theatre Group: having the issue autographed by George at conventions and donating there, or by ordering the very limited *Lil' Abner* program—which has George's art on the cover and a two page original comic strip by George inside, a must have for any Pérez fan. You can have it for $5.00 with all proceeds going toward Moonlight Theatre Group. Please drop me an e-mail before you order to ensure copies are available. Because quantities are very limited, when they're gone, they're gone! I can be reached at TLorenzp@yahoo.com.

I would like to thank all the other contributors to this issue. From the artwork to the articles, the material they provide really is the backbone of this magazine. I especially want to thank Tabitha, Danny, J.A. and Manny for their excellent features. Their contributions truly made the "no-theme issue" truly an amazing addition to the series.

In this issue, you'll notice an ad for a raffle for your chance to win a piece of art drawn by Manny Fiori and inked by George Pérez. Manny came up with the idea when he was really moved by the Wounded Warriors Project—spearheaded by Eric Sellers—last issue. What a great way to give to a good cause and have a chance to win a piece of original art inked by George Pérez, for a mere $5.00. See the ad towards the back of issue for more details.

Thanks as always for your support of *PACESETTER: The George Pérez Magazine*. I need help for next issue, and for future issues as well. Next issue's theme is team books. I'm looking for features on teams—other than George's *Avengers* or *Teen Titans*. Here are a few ideas: Fantastic Four, Sons of Tiger, Legion of Superheroes, Defenders, Thunder Agents, X-Men...

If you have any theme ideas for future issues or an idea for a feature, drop me a line at TLorenzp@yahoo.com. Remember the magazine's slogan: "FOR PÉREZ FANS, BY PEREZ FANS." Any contribution that we use receives the issue for free, credit in the issue and George gets a copy of every issue.

I look forward to your feedback. It is the only way to improve the magazine. Thanks for all the support!

Tony Lorenz

PACESETTER FASHION

Some of George's Best Character Designs

by J. A. Fludd

As George Pérez became the artist whose style and techniques I studied the most closely, one thing made itself clear over time: George is one of the best designers of characters and costumes in the business. As much as I've loved his storytelling and his way with detail, I've thrilled to his gift for visualizing new characters and reinventing the looks of established ones. What follows is a George Pérez fashion show, with the best designs to come down the *Pacesetter* runway. Note that the issue citations are for the first appearance of the *costume*, which is not in every case the first appearance of the *character.*

IT'S TOO BAD VAN, OUR FASHION EXPERT, ISN'T HERE TO COMMENT, BUT, ANYWAY, I LIKE YOUR NEW OUTFIT, WONDER MAN!
THANKS! THE BEAST, OF ALL... PEOPLE, DESIGNED AND MADE IT FOR ME!
IT WAS A SURPRISE! I JUST FIGURED I'D GO BACK TO CIVVIES AFTER MY OLD COSTUME GOT TOTALLED*!
*LAST ISSUE--ARCH.

WONDER MAN (*The Avengers* #161). After the Grim Reaper shredded his brother's original costume in *The Avengers* #160, Wonder Man appeared in the next issue in a costume that the Beast made for him (the beginning of their great friendship.) While George has said he's less than satisfied with the color scheme for this outfit, I've always liked it. Note how the W and the M on his chest join into a diamond, echoing the diamond on the shirt of the Vision, who was programmed with Wonder Man's brain patterns. I thought this was the first costume to show his great sense of original design, and I was sorry that it lasted only a few issues before it, too, were shredded. It was immediately followed by Wonder Man's "red safari jacket" period, which I thought at the time was offbeat and daring for the look of a super-hero, especially one as powerful as this. In hindsight, I really think Wonder Man wants to look...well,

wondrous. And so he did with both the *Avengers* #161 costume and George's next pass at design for the ionic Avenger, many years later...

WONDER MAN (*The Avengers* Vol. 3 #12). This ensemble came at the beginning of Wonder Man's current power expression, shifting into purple Kirby Crackle when he goes into battle. For a new look for when his powers were relaxed, George gave the character a sleek black ensemble with cool wristbands and a single red W on the chest and back, arcing down from the upper arms. This outfit is a model of striking simplicity, which in my opinion is the best way to design a super-hero's costume. Where George is concerned, however, it is not the only way, as we'll soon see!

THE SCARLET WITCH (*The Avengers* Vol. 3 #1.) Of course, George's favorite Scarlet Witch ensemble is the "gypsy/belly dancer" outfit that debuted a couple of issues after this one, which is her "default" costume in *Avengers/JLA*. This is to be expected; George is particularly fond of belly dancers. He even married one. My favorite, though, is the one created for the "Heroes Reborn" period of *The Avengers*, which is a variation on the character's classic look. The charm of this costume is in both the simplicity and the details. The pink body stocking of the most familiar version of this outfit is now only on the Witch's legs; her shoulders, cleavage, and upper arms are bare, and she wears long evening gloves. Twin seams run down the front of the bodice, accentuating the figure, while the cloak now attaches to the bodice. For the finishing touch, the boots are those of the original Scarlet Witch ensemble designed by Jack Kirby for *The X-Men* #4! This was another short-lived design, but one that I especially enjoyed.

THE WASP (*Avengers/JLA* #1, 2, and 4.) One of the most endearing things about *The Avengers* is the way the Wasp would change her costume every time the storyline changed, making her the super-hero with by far the most costumes in comics. George would design his share of outfits for the Wasp (I remember being impressed in the aforementioned *Avengers* #161 with the purple ensemble George gave her), but this one is his best work for Jan Van Dyne. The Wasp is always visually at her best in warm colors played off of black (which you see a lot in George's costumes), and the use of that color scheme with the cut of this outfit—note the flesh-revealing cut outs on the shoulders—works perfectly. I consider this not only one of George's best designs, but the best of all the *dozens* of Wasp costumes.

THE TASKMASTER (*The Avengers* #195.) This villain gets a dramatic last-page reveal, with a look that shows us what happens when George just cuts loose on a character. The Taskmaster's look is a skull-masked amalgam of Captain America, Hawkeye, the Swordsman, and Dr. Doom that you just know spells "trouble!" Whenever he shows up, he tells you by his appearance alone that he's going to be a handful.

TRIATHLON (second design, *The Avengers* vol. 3 #15.) Triathlon's original costume was designed by Kurt Busiek. Though the original look was good (*The Avengers* vol. 3 #8), George got the character right the second time. Triathlon, who turns out to possess a variation on the powers of the 3D Man, is a Pérez original and a study in red, green, and black. While this African-American hero's color scheme harks back

HE LOPES OUT FROM THE BACKSTAGE SHADOWS, ALL PHYSICAL CONFIDENCE AND EASY, RELAXED GRACE.
HE HAS THREE TIMES THE POWER OF PEAK HUMAN PHYSICAL CAPACITY.
THREE TIMES AS STRONG AS A MAN CAN GET, THREE TIMES AS FAST -- THREE TIMES THE REFLEXES, THE SENSES, THE STAMINA.

to the 3D Man, it's interesting to note that these colors were chosen to symbolize "Black Pride" in the 1960s. The sleeves are cut to leave his forearms half-bare, which along with the overall cut of the costume reflect his background as an Olympic athlete. The clothes don't make the man; they are an expression of him.

TELL US HOW TO DRESS?
C'MON, HONEY -- IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. THE WASP WAS BEING FRIENDLY -- THE NEW JUSTICE AND FIRESTAR COSTUMES ARE A GIFT --
FINE. YOU WEAR THIS. I'LL TAKE YOURS -- AT LEAST IT COVERS YOU!

FIRESTAR (*The Avengers* Vol. 3 #8.) There's an amusing "blooper" involved with this costume. The cover of *The Avengers* Vol. 3 #7 shows Justice and Firestar in battle in the costumes that the Wasp gave them as presents—but that didn't happen until an issue later! It would be interesting to know the story of how that

happened. The 1990s was a period in comics marked by what might be considered stupid, adolescent ideas and excesses—including a trend of having super-heroes, including Firestar, wear jackets over their distinctive costumes as an expression of "attitude." Coming out of that period, Firestar donned a yellow suit with red fire-pattern trim and black gloves and boots. She added another red part—probably a body stocking under the suit—for modesty. The original suit that the Wasp gave her had open cleavage! Her then-boyfriend Justice appreciated this, but the lass had different tastes and modified it accordingly, covering up with the black undergarment. Good for her!

ZATANNA (*The New Teen Titans* #4/*Justice League of America* #187.) This design is an interesting case study in the relationship between George and other artists. As he remarked in *The Titans Companion* Volume 1 in an interview with Glen Cadigan: "Of course my penchant for drawing very detailed, very busy costumes makes me the bane of anyone who has to follow me, because what I enjoy drawing is not necessarily what other people are going to enjoy drawing. The rare times when I've designed costumes that were not meant for my books I have tried to simplify, the most notable being the Zatanna costume... which was designed when I did the Justice League appearance in issue four of *The Titans*..." And indeed, when this Zatanna ensemble made its debut in an actual Justice League story, the artist was Don Heck. The "simpler" design job that George did for this iteration of Zatanna anticipated what would happen when other artists took over from him with other characters such as Cyborg and Troia, whom we'll discuss momentarily.

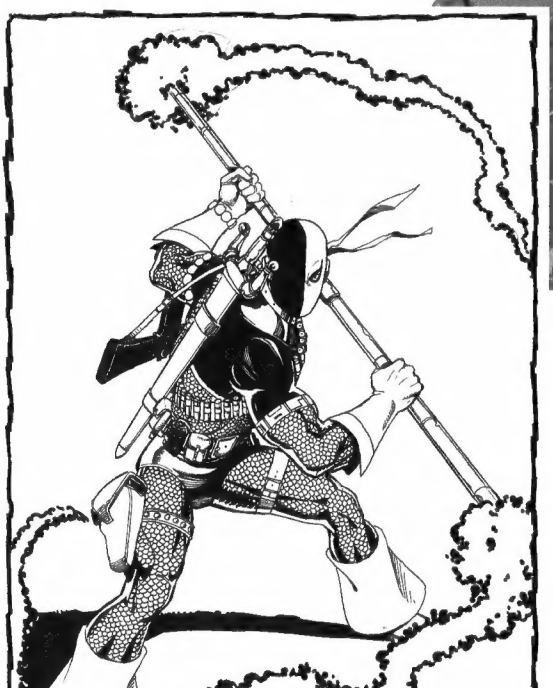
Regardless of the concession that George made for other artists, the blue-and-white Zatanna costume with its flaring

sleeves and hip boots showed an elegance and flair befitting a magical heroine. While George does an equally stunning job when called upon to draw the character in her more familiar stage-magician outfit with the fishnet stockings (see *Avengers/JLA*), with this costume he truly made the character his own. And speaking of George's work on the costumes of mystical heroines...

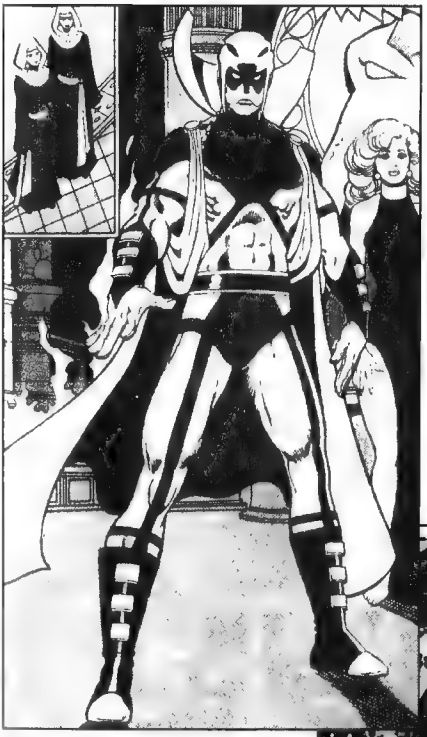
RAVEN (*New Teen Titans* Preview in *DC Comics Presents* #26/*The New Teen Titans* #1.) In the words of Edgar Allen Poe, Raven was surely "no craven." She projected an air of mystery from the moment we first saw her in her trademark "bird's head" hood shrouding her face and flowing down into a billowing cloak, and her dark gown, long

gloves, and simple shoes. Raven is one of George's most compelling designs for the very reason that her look is completely atypical of his costume sense. Her otherworldly look is easily George's most minimalist work. She perfectly and graphically evokes the "Nevermore"-spouting bird for which she's named.

DEATHSTROKE THE TERMINATOR (*The New Teen Titans* #2.) Deathstroke could have been "The Taskmaster Point 2." He is a variation on that theme, a character attired to tell you at a glance that he is a walking death-dealer. With his half-black full-face mask (he lost an eye on that side but was no less deadly for it) and his weapons-laden chain-mail suit, he is the very ima of danger and assassinati It comes as no surprise t he was capable of battling Teen Titans single-hande The Justice League themsel would probably have fou him a tough customer!



BROTHER BLOOD (*New Teen Titans* #21.) I m confess I've always envi George's design for this villa even if I never fully understo his powers, origin, or motiv Brother Blood is one of most striking images of e



ever seen in comics. The skull-like headgear (which changed in successive appearances but was at its best the first time), the ingeniously designed cape, and the use of stark red and black patterns on the main suit make him a figure of eerily beautiful menace. The sight of Brother Blood was enough to make your blood race and curdle at the same time.

BLACKFIRE (*The New Teen Titans* #22.) Like the Taskmaster, Starfire's evil sister is a villain dramatically revealed in a closing splash panel. And for a villainess like her it's appropriate. Blackfire is all aggression, spite, and revenge, an interplanetary Wicked Witch in black leather and shiny metal. The way George drew her; you kept expecting Blackfire to hiss at her sibling, "I'll get you, my pretty—and the rest of the Titans too!"

TERRA (First design: *The New Teen Titans* #26; second design: *The New Teen Titans* #30.) Both of George's designs for the traitorous, psychopathic Terra are excellent. The reason for her costume switch just a few issues after her debut seems to be part of her manipulation of Changeling and the rest of the team. Her second design, with the gold accents and the bare legs, looks friendlier than the original ensemble that

covered her completely and included a cowl with vaguely Galactus-like horns. (Terra's powers are actually a variation on Galactus's evil herald, Terrax, from *The Fantastic Four*; Marv Wolfman co-created both characters.) Nevertheless, both Terra ensembles look great and the cover of *The New Teen Titans* #30, which shows off the second one, is one of George's all-time masterpieces. Too bad this earth-powered girl was just rotten to the core!

NIGHTWING (*Tales of the Teen Titans* #44.) When George first started with the Teen Titans, I wrote in an article comparing the Titans with the X-Men in *The X-Men Chronicles* that George wasn't able to redesign Robin because "Robin is an institution and cannot be changed." Just a few ye later, DC Comics got a whole lot less conservative, a not only was George able to redesign Batman's origi sidekick, he got to give him a completely new identi Nightwing is yet another of those beautifully detai Pérez designs that other artists who worked with t character saw fit to "un-detail." As rendered by otl talents, Nightwing lost the original cut of his mask; flaring collar, plunging neckline, and bared chest; a the feather-and-wing accents on his suit, including t gold feathering on his top. It's a pity, really. Changin costume like the one that George did for Nightwing definitely for the birds.

JERICHO (*Tales of the Teen Titans* #44.) Taking his first bow along with the newly outfitted Dick Grayson was an all-new character that George visualized from scratch. If anyone were giving out an award for the best use of purple chain mail, puffy sleeves, and gold accents, the mute, body-possessing Joey "Jericho" Wilson would have no competition.

TROIA (*The New Titans* #55). After *Crisis on Infinite Earths*—drawn by George—unhinged the origin and backstory of Wonder Girl, there was a lengthy period of uncertainty about what would be done with her. When the word came that George would return to the Titans to help Marv Wolfman redefine her, there was plenty of anticipation of what her new look would be. Any time George is designing a new character or redesigning an established one, it's bound to be a treat. But with Troia, the new identity (for the time being) of Donna Troy, he outdid himself. The hairstyle left something to be desired, but the

costume was a total stunner! George threw everything into this one: a black-with-stars bodice, a gold sash, red and blue accents on gold gloves and boots, cut-outs with golden netting. It was truly awesome—and, of course, too detailed for most other artists. Once George left the Titans again, this magnificent costume was soon history, and Donna herself went into a turnaround of identities, powers, looks, and origins that went on for years. Another pity.

PARIAH (*Crisis on Infinite Earths* #1). The little-seen Pariah—a dimension-traveling man with trouble-seeker powers—combined the puffy sleeves of Jericho, the hood-and-cloak of Raven, and the use of black-and-color contrasting and gold accenting that are recurring themes in George's design work. For a character whose main role was to witness the destruction of universes, the Pariah was an elegant presence.

ARES (*Wonder Woman* Vol. 2 #1). The Greek God of War, as visualized in George's breathtaking reboot

of *Wonder Woman*, is probably the best depiction of a villain in George's career. His Ares is breathtaking and terrifying, an image of absolute evil and total violence. The level of detail in Ares's garb just makes you want to bring your eye physically close to the comic book page and squint at it; there's so much there! You could get lost just in the horns and carving details of the helmet, but then there's also the animal-skull accents and lacing on the gauntlets; the accents and other trim and lacing on the boots; the two kinds of chain mail on the armor; and the detailing on the skirt. You know that no one else wanted to put the time and effort into continuing this design after George was gone; it was just too "Pérez." No one else has ever made the war god this elaborate—or this satisfying to look at.

PSY-4 (*Isaac Asimov's I-Bots* #1.) An obscure creation for a short-lived book from a defunct company, Psy-4 was the most iconic-looking of the I-Bots and benefited from the Pacesetter's best design sense. What makes this outfit is the accustomed use of heavy black contrasting a bright, warm color that we see in many of George's other costumes; the unconventionally draping red cape that hangs longer on his left side than his right; and the two-tone orange-and-vermillion color scheme of the body suit. The design for the character Psi-4 was adapred from an original design by Howard Chaykin. This is a work of sheer beauty, and it's a shame it can be seen only in a book that's pretty much a footnote in George's career.

CRIMSON PLAGUE (*Crimson Plague* #1.) An independent creation that quickly folded, *Crimson Plague* was a personal labor of love for George, and its heroine, DiNA: Simmons, had a brilliant costume. George combined a basic black suit with leather, fringe, chains, a monster-skull jewel accessory, and red hair striping to create a

heroine who commanded your attention. The idea of a heroine who could corrode her foes to death by bleeding on them was less than pleasant, but never has a gruesome idea been rendered with such an arresting look. *Crimson Plague* was disturbing, but still a work of visual genius.

Any artist in comics should be proud to be able to design just one character or costume as stunning as the ones listed above. Not only did George create the looks for all of these, he put his own visual stamp on pre-existing characters and characters designed by others, always making every one an individual and bringing out the best qualities in them. By never cutting corners and always being willing to do a little more with every character—sometimes a *lot* more—he put himself at the top of his profession. It's one more way that George Pérez's work sets the bar at a level for which any artist in comics should aim.

Special bonus: Wonder Woman, as redesigned by George Pérez, from the cover of Pacesetter *#6*

Grateful acknowledgement goes to my friend, sometime collaborator, and fellow Pérez spotter Andy Mangels for research assistance in the writing of this article. His help with the Zatanna references is much appreciated. Here's to more great art and great character designs from the incomparable Pacesetter!

The Art of George Pérez Action Figures

by Daniel DeAngelo and David T. Allen

In 1973, George Pérez began his career as an assistant to artist Rich Buckler. His first published work was in a back-up story for Buckler's "Deathlok" strip in Marvel Comics' *Astonishing Tales* #25. His first solo job for Marvel was in 1974, penciling "The Sons of the Tiger" strip for their *Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* magazine. In 1975, Pérez—along with writer Bill Mantlo—co-created comics' first Puerto-Rican super-hero, the White Tiger (who is finally being made into an action figure for the first time in 2011, as part of Art Asylum and Diamond Select's *Marvel Minimates* 2-inch line, along with the current female version of the character). At this time, the top line of super-hero toys was Mego's *World's Greatest Super Heroes*, which included 8-inch figures of characters from both Marvel and DC as well as licensed heroes like Conan and Tarzan.

With Pérez's career just getting started, he had yet to create or design any characters significant enough to be included in the Mego WGSH line. However, his next major co-creation (with writer David Michelinie)—the evil Taskmaster from *Avengers* #195 in May 1980—*would* go on to become an action figure…but not until 1997. The following list of Taskmaster figures are all based on Pérez's original design with some minor variations, including…

MARVEL'S GOLD (Toy Biz, 1997) 5-inch scale: Includes a sword accessory. The cape is colored white instead of the original orange.

MARVEL LEGENDS (Toy Biz, 2006) 7-inch scale: Includes a sword, shield, pistol, quiver, billy club and air scooter, as well as a reprint of *Avengers* #196. The cape is white on the exterior and orange on the interior.

MARVEL MINIMATES (Art Asylum/ Diamond Select, 2007) 2-inch scale: 2-Pack of Taskmaster and U.S. Agent. Taskmaster includes a sword, shield, bow and arrow, pistol and dagger. The cape is colored white instead of the original orange. This is a Diamond PREVIEWS exclusive.

MARVEL SUPER HERO SQUAD (Hasbro, 2010) 3-inch scale: 2-Pack of Taskmaster and Deadpool. Both figures are based on the cartoony style of the *Super Hero Squad* animated series. Taskmaster comes with a sword and shield. The cape is white on the exterior with orange on the interior. For some reason, Taskmaster's costume is colored bright blue instead of dark blue or black like the other figures.

MARVEL UNIVERSE GREATEST BATTLES (Hasbro, 2011) 4-inch scale: Another 2-pack of Taskmaster and Deadpool, this time done in a more realistic style. Taskmaster comes with a sword, shield, bow and gun. His cape is once more colored white on the exterior and orange on the interior.

In 1977, Mego added a *Teen Titans* series of 7-inch action figures to its WGSH line, which included Aqualad, Kid Flash, Speedy and Wonder Girl (Robin had already been released with Batman as an 8" figure), but this was before Pérez would become linked with the group. At the time, the Titans were still fairly minor characters within the DC Universe and were seen only as sidekicks to the adult heroes. This changed in December 1980 with the release of *The New Teen Titans* #1 by writer Marv Wolfman and drawn by George Pérez. The addition of three new Titans—Cyborg, Raven and Starfire (who all first appeared in a preview story in *DC Comics Presents* #26 two months before)—and the serious treatment of the characters by Wolfman and Pérez made the book into a major hit and also made George Pérez into a superstar artist. In addition to *Titans*, Pérez also became a regular artist on *Justice League of America* and designed a new blue-and-white costume for the sorceress Zatanna. The costume first appeared in *JLA* #187 (which was drawn by Ross Andru,

not Pérez). The only action figure based on this version of Zatanna is from DC Direct's 2006 *Identity Crisis* line. However, some fans were displeased that the figure was based on the art of Michael Turner rather than Pérez, with long legs that made it 7" tall and out-of-scale with other DC Direct JLA figures.

Ironically, just as George Pérez's career was on the rise, Mego's WGSH series was starting to fade out. No new characters had been added since the Titans line, and many old favorites were being pulled from the line-up. Mego turned down an opportunity to produce toys based on the then-upcoming movie, *Star Wars*, and Kenner's subsequent *Star Wars* toy line would revolutionize the action figure market. In order to avoid having to produce huge (and overly expensive) vehicles and playsets to fit 8-inch figures, Kenner made their *Star Wars* figures under 4-inches, and instead of using cloth outfits, the figures and their clothing were made entirely of molded plastic. This wound up becoming the industry standard, and Mego struggled along for a few more years with other projects like the *Micronauts* before going out of business in 1983. If Mego's WGSH line had lasted a few years more, there probably would have been a *New Teen Titans* series to rival the original, but George Pérez's path was not destined to cross with that of Mego. The first great super-hero toy line had ended, but the next great one would come along in a few more years—and this time, it would include the first action figure based on Pérez's art.

The toy line would be Kenner's classic *Super Powers Collection*, debuting in 1984, which many fans and collectors still consider to be the greatest line of super-hero figures ever made. And that first George Pérez action figure would be…Lex Luthor? Of course, the character of Luthor had been Superman's arch-nemesis for decades before Pérez came along. But in 1983, DC Comics chose to celebrate Superman's 45th Anniversary by re-creating his two biggest enemies—Lex Luthor and Brainiac. Marv Wolfman and artist Ed Hannigan turned Brainiac into a colder, more robotic villain (despite what many other *Super Powers* articles claim, Pérez did not re-design Brainiac), while Luthor built himself a suit of space armo finally gave him the raw power to stand Superman (becoming a real "Man of St The story introducing the armor in *Comics* #244 was by Cary Bates and Curt but the armor itself (which looked som like a spacesuit) was designed by Pérez an colored green-and-purple like Luthor's pre costume. The armor was only used in the c for a couple of years before the entire *Supe* line—including Luthor—was revampe John Byrne in 1986. Luthor went from a scientist to a ruthless billionaire, and the was cast aside in favor of a business suit (alth it would become the armor Luthor design his own troops to wear into battle). D this, Luthor has continued to don the numerous times over the years—in the co in animation like *Justice League Unlimite Superman and Batman: Public Enemies*, a course in toys (although it would be a twenty years before another action figu Luthor in armor was made). Other figures of Luthor with the armor—or s armor based on the Pérez design—are inc in the following toy lines…

SUPER POWERS COLLECTION W (Kenner, 1984) 5-inch scale: Lex Luthor "Power-Action Nuclear Punch" that is act by squeezing his legs together. The a chest piece is removable, although the arm described as being only at "half-power" wi it. The figure also comes with a mini- book.

JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED (M 2003) 4-inch scale: 2-Pack of Superma "Armor Assault" Lex Luthor. The Luthor is dressed in a black business suit and with separate pieces (body and legs, righ left arm, and head piece) that can be asse over the figure to create the assault armo armor is colored dark green with gloves and boots colored blue instead of purple.

CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS 2 (DC Direct, 2006) 6-inch scale: Bas Pérez's art from the *Crisis* comic series Lex Luthor figure is the closest to the o design.

DC SUPER HEROES Series 4 (M

2006) 6-inch scale: "Battle Armor" Lex Luthor is similar to the original Pérez design but is a bit bigger and has more electronic attachments like wires. The figure includes a laser gun, green kryptonite chunk and a comic book. Re-released in two separate 2-Packs as part of the *DC Universe Classics* series.

DC MINIMATES (Art Asylum/ DC Direct, 2006) 2-inch scale: 2-Pack of Superman and Lex Luthor in Battle Armor. The armor's belt, gloves and boots are colored blue. The chest emblem and two knobs on the chest piece (where the nipples would be, which indicates that Joel Schumaker may also have been an inspiration) are purple. The figure includes a green kryptonite chunk.

SUPERMAN AND BATMAN Series 3 – Public Enemies 2 (DC Direct 2007) 4-inch scale: "Armored" Lex Luthor is based on Ed McGuiness' art from the *Public Enemies* comic book and animated movie. This figure has two separate heads with different faces—one quizzical with a raised eyebrow and one crazed look with a sinister smile. The armor is very bulky and curved with huge fists.

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES Crisis Series (Mattel, 2008) 4-inch scale: 3-Pack of Lex Luthor and 2 LexCorp Troopers. Luthor does not wear armor in this set, but the LexCorp Troopers do. There are two different versions of Troopers—ones with blonde hair and ones with brown hair. Troopers wear armor similar to Luthor's with a dark green body suit and light green head/chest piece, shorts, gloves and boots with purple trim.

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES Superman and Batman: Public Enemies (Mattel, 2009) 4-inch scale: 3-Pack of Superman, Powergirl and Lex Luthor. Luthor's armor is very large and bulky with long arms and legs. The armor is colored bright green with purple gloves and boots and a purple "L" chest symbol. The figure also has large purple missile launchers that attach to the shoulders.

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES Battle for Metropolis (Mattel, 2009) 4-inch scale: 8-Pack of Superman, Shazam, Captain Atom, Lex Luthor and 3 LexCorp Troopers. This is the same Luthor figure from the *Public Enemies* 3-Pack. The LexCorp Troopers in this set wear light green helmets with black visors and purple trim. Their armor is colored differently from the other Troopers, with bright green bodysuits, light green head/chest piece and shorts, and purple gloves and boots with green trim.

DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS Kryptonite Chaos: Supergirl vs. Luthor (Mattel, 2010) 6-inch scale: This Luthor is a re-release of the *DC Super Heroes* figure and includes chunks of green, red, blue and gold kryptonite, but does not include the original's laser gun accessory. This 2-Pack is a Toys 'R Us exclusive.

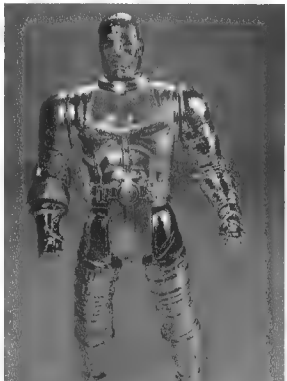
DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS Masters of the Universe: Lex Luthor vs. Skeletor (Mattel, 2010) 6-inch scale: This Luthor is also a re-release of the *DC Super Heroes* figure

and includes chunks of green, red, blue and gold kryptonite, but also does not include the laser gun accessory. This 2-Pack is also a Toys 'R Us exclusive.

The *Super Powers* and *Crisis on Infinite Earths* figures were the only ones that were totally based on Pérez's original design, while the rest are all variations. There are also other action figures of Luthor wearing armor that are not based directly on the Pérez design but look as if they might have been inspired by it, such as the "Kryptonite Armor" Lex Luthor figures from Kenner's *Superman: The Animated Series* and Mattel's *Superman Returns* lines, both of which have Luthor wearing translucent green armor made of kryptonite that have rounded head pieces and shoulder pads similar to the Pérez armor. The 17th wave of *DC Universe Classics* has Lex Luthor as an Orange Lantern with translucent orange armor.

The third wave of *Super Powers* figures in 1986 would include the first action figure based on a character George Pérez co-created (as opposed to having just re-designed like Luthor): Cyborg of the New Teen Titans, which included "Power-Action Thrusting Arms" and "3 Action Arm" attachments (a fist, drill and claw). At the time, Cyborg also appeared on the *Super Powers Team: Galactic Guardians* animated series—the latest version of the long-running *SuperFriends* cartoon, which had now become based on the toy line. Unfortunately, the *Super Powers* collection was cancelled after the third wave, which received very limited distribution. Cyborg was one of the rarest figures in the series and currently sells for hundreds of dollars MOC (Mint On Card). If the *Super Powers* line had continued, there were plans to add some more Titans characters to the line-up, including Kid Flash, Deathstroke and Vigilante. Cyborg also would have been re-released as a "Power Plus" figure, which was intended to be a deluxe version of some of the series' main characters with cybernetic attachments. Cyborg would l come with "technoskin," which was basic a missile-firing backpack with attachm for carrying his drill and claw hands. Cyb would even have received a vehicle called "Cyborg Crawler" that was originally inten to be a vehicle for Catwoman called the " Cat Crawler" before Catwoman was drop from the lineup. Interestingly, Kenner's orig pitch for the *Super Powers* collection includ proposed *Teen Titans* line of figures—with Flash, Wonder Girl and Changeling, along v Cyborg—plus a Titans Tower playset and Sk vehicle. Once Kenner got the license from they failed to do much with the Titans charac despite the fact that *New Teen Titans* was D top-selling comic book at the time. Howe back when action figures were marketed to rather than collectors, toy manufacturers ra made figures based on female characters to the belief that girls didn't buy action fig and boys were not interested in playing v female action figures. The slow sales of Wor Woman from the first wave only confirm this belief. Robin had already been inclu in the first wave of figures and Kid Flash proposed as a future addition, so Kenner not have wanted to take a chance on Wor Girl, Starfire or Raven.

Next to Nightwing, Cyborg would be m into an action figure more than any of the o Wolfman-Pérez Titans. Not counting fig based on the *Teen Titans* animated series (wh would require an article of its own), Cyborg appeared in quite a few div toy lines, including …

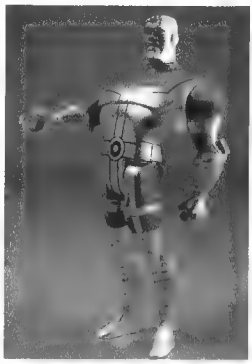


SUPER POWE COLLECTION Wave (Kenner, 1986) 5-inch sc Based on the original P design, Cyborg comes v "Power Action Thrusting Ar and includes drill arm and c arm attachments.

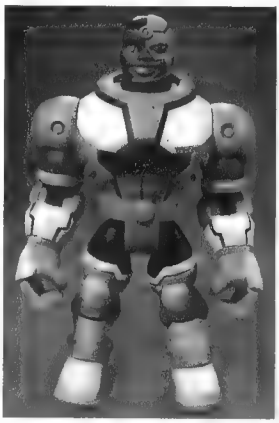
NEW TEEN TITANS Seri (DC Direct, 2001) 6-inch sc Also based on the classic P design, Cyborg again co with interchangeable ha including a sonic disruptor

"laser finger" hand (for welding). A repainted gold version of this figure is included in the "Classic Teen Titans" box set (2003).

DC MINIMATES (Art Asylum/DC Direct; 2007) 2-inch scale: 2-Pack of Cyborg and Raven. Cyborg again comes with two different hand attachments—a sonic disruptor and laser finger hand.



DC SUPER FRIENDS (Mattel, 2008) 6-inch scale: This toy line is not based on the classic animated series but on a new kid-friendly comic series from DC, similar to Marvel's *Super Hero Squad Show*. Cyborg looks like a cross between the comics and cartoon versions and comes with a cannon blaster and cannonball. A limited Gold Cyborg figure was also released.



DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS Series 4 (Mattel, 2008) 6-inch scale: Two figures were produced—one that includes a laser arm and claw arm, and a variant that comes with a sonic gun arm. The variant does not include the other arms (not even Cyborg's normal hand), so one would have to buy both figures to get all three attachments.

SMALLVILLE Series 2 (DC Direct, 2008) 6-inch scale: This figure is based on actor Lee Thompson Young, who portrayed Cyborg on the *Smallville* TV Series. The live-action Cyborg has his cybernetic parts on the inside of his body and wears a silver vest on the outside.

JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED (Mattel, 2009) 4-inch scale: 3-Pack of Cyborg, Plastic Man and Mr. Miracle. Although Cyborg never showed up in *Justice League Unlimited*—or in any of the DC Animated Universe series—he appears here in a streamlined version of the classic Pérez design done in the Bruce Timm animated-style.

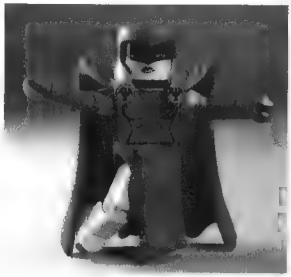
DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES Mallah's Revenge (Mattel, 2010) 4-inch scale: 6-Pack of Cyborg, Robin, Raven, Arsenal, Monsieur Mallah and The Brain. Several Titans characters take on Doom Patrol villains Mallah and The Brain from the Brotherhood of Evil. Cyborg is based on the more modern "upgraded" version (as seen in the *Teen Titans Spotlight: Cyborg* mini-series) with a large breastplate covering his shoulders and upper-chest.

As noted above, Cyborg was part of DC Direct's *New Teen Titans* line, which has been the only line of action figures based directly on the classic Wolfman-Pérez team of Titans. DC Direct is a division of DC Comics that specializes in action figures and other collectibles based on DC/Time Warner properties. Their first action figures were based on characters from *MAD Magazine* (Alfred E. Neuman and Spy vs. Spy) in 1998. The following year, their first action figures based on DC Comics characters included Wonder Woman, Swamp Thing, and the Golden Age Sandman. The first two DC Direct *New Teen Titans* figures released in 2000 were Kid Flash (not a character Pérez created or designed) and Starfire, followed by Cyborg and Raven in 2001, all in 6-inch scale. Kid Flash includes a base with the "Flash" lightning bolt emblem. Starfire has hair that can be attached to a translucent base, making it look as if she is flying and leaving her signature streak of hair trailing behind; her hair and eyes also light up at the touch of a button. Raven also comes with a translucent base molded to look like smoke, which makes it appear as if she is teleporting; her cape is molded in the shape of two wings rising above her shoulders (as she often appears in the comics) and the lower part of her robes are molded as if they are flowing across her legs. Unfortunately, Raven's cape and robe cannot be molded into any other shape. Many fans were

unhappy about the figures' lack of articulation—particularly with the female characters, whose legs were immobile. Despite this, the series is a must-have for any serious fan of George Pérez and the *New Teen Titans*. All four figures were re-painted and released in 2003 in a "Classic Teen Titans" box set that included two figures of Beast Boy—one as the Changeling and another as a green monkey. This has been the only action figure of Changeling so far, although there have been other figures based on Beast Boy (Wolfman and Pérez are considered co-creators of the "Changeling" name and costume, but not the Beast Boy character who first appeared in *Doom Patrol* #99 in 1965). At 6-inches high, Changeling was a bit taller than he should have been in comparison to the other Titans, but the 3-inch tall monkey had no trouble fitting in with the gang. Starfire's purple costume was given a more metallic finish, while Raven's dark blue cape was re-painted white (a costume she wore briefly in the comics), and Cyborg's silver parts were re-painted gold. While there has yet to be another Changeling action figure (except as Beast Boy), Starfire and Raven have been made into action figures a few other times, including…

NEW TEEN TITANS Series 1 (DC Direct, 2000-2001) 6-inch scale: Starfire and Raven both come with translucent bases. Starfire's eyes and hair light up.

DC MINIMATES (Art Asylum/DC Direct, 2007) 2-inch scale: 2-Packs of Nightwing and Starfire and Cyborg and Raven. Raven's hood and cape can be removed and rep with a hairpiece.



DC UNIVERSE CLASS Series 15 (Mattel, 2010 inch scale: Raven is simil the DC Direct release, wit cape shaped as two wings above her shoulders, but more articulation. Raven the winner of a Fan's C vote.

DC UNIVERSE CLASS Space Heroes (Mattel, 200 inch scale: 2-Pack of Starfire and Adam Str

Starfire is wearing the mo version of her costume, long boots (but no gl rather than the original design. This set is a matty exclusive.

DC UNIVERSE INFIN HEROES Crisis S (Mattel, 2008) 4-inch s 3-Pack of Starfire, Ca Boomerang and Raven. St comes in her modern cost with long boots and gl Raven is wearing a p costume that compl covers her body, with a raven emblem on the and a large, red jewel clas her cloak, which was a Daniel redesign of Pérez's original.

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES Crisis Series (Mattel, 2010) 4-inch scale: 3-Pack of Starfire, Adam Strange and Animal Man. The Starfire figure used here is the same one from the 3-Pack with Raven and Captain Boomerang.

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES Mallah's Revenge (Mattel, 2010) 4-inch scale: 6-Pack of Cyborg, Robin, Raven, Arsenal, Monsieur Mallah and The Brain. The Raven figure used here is the same one from the 3-Pack with Starfire and Captain Boomerang.

DC Direct released a second line of *Teen Titans* figures in 2004, referred to as the "Contemporary" series. This series includes a few characters co-created by George Pérez but is not based on his art. Starfire's evil sister, Blackfire, is based on her modern look rather than the original Pérez design. Likewise, Brother Blood is not the same villain Pérez co-created—in fact, it is Brother Blood's son, who has a totally different costume than his father. Deathstroke the Terminator, on the other hand, looks just like the popular villain Pérez co-created in *New Teen Titans* #2 (1981) and comes with a sword and shotgun. Deathstroke's daughter, Ravager, has a name and costume inspired by the original Ravager (also from *NTT* #2) as well as her father and comes with two identical swords. Other figures in the series—not created or designed by Pérez—included Robin (Tim Drake), Wonder Girl (Cassie Sandsmark), Superboy (Conner Kent) and Kid Flash (Bart Allen). All of the *Contemporary Teen Titans* figures come on plastic bases shaped like the then-current *Teen Titans* logo. In 2007, DC Direct released another wave of figures called *New Teen Titans Series 2*, this time based directly on George Pérez's art, with more characters from the Wolfman-Pérez run. Included are Deathstroke unmasked with sword and shotgun (this is the same figure from the *Contemporary* line re-painted and with a different head), Terra (introduced in *NTT* #26, 1982) who comes with a boulder for transportation, Jericho (Deathstroke's son, introduced in *Tales of the Teen Titans* #44, 1984), and Robin (who was not created or designed by Pérez, but the figure is based on his art). All figures come on plastic bases with the "TT" Titans logo.

Speaking of Terra, she is being made into an action figure again as a Black Lantern from DC Direct's *Blackest Night Series 7* based on the DC crossover series where many of DC's dead heroes and villains come back to life as "Black Lanterns." Black Lantern Terra includes another figure called Scar. Ironically, around the time that Terra was being introduced in *New Teen Titans*, writer Mike W. Barr and artist Jim Aparo were planning a similar character with earth-moving powers called Geo-Force for their upcoming *Batman and the Outsiders* series. Marv Wolfman and Barr resolved the dilemma by deciding to make the two characters brother-and-sister. In order to tie the two characters together visually, George Pérez designed a different costume for Geo-Force than what Aparo had come up with, one that was similar to Terra's own costume. The tan-and-brown costume debuted—along with Geo-Force himself—in *Brave and the Bold* #200 (1983). After the Terra storyline ran its course and the character was killed off, Geo-Force adopted the green-and yellow costume that Aparo had originally designed. In 2009, DC Direct released the first Geo-Force action figure as part of their *Justice League of America Series 3*. At this time, Geo-Force had become a member of the JLA and was wearing a new version of his original costume, thus adding him to our list of George Pérez action figures. Other Titans characters, like Deathstroke, who have also been made into action figures include…

DC MINIMATES (Art Asylum/DC Direct, 2006) 2-inch scale: 2-Pack of Deathstroke and Green Arrow. Deathstroke includes a staff, dagger, pistol, rifle and a removable mask that reveals Slade Wilson's unmasked face.

DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS Series 3 (Mattel, 2008) 6-inch scale: Deathstroke includes a rifle, handgun, staff, sword and bandolier. An unmasked variant has the same body and accessories with a new head.

DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS Series 8 (Mattel, 2009) 6-inch scale: Vigilante (introduced in New Teen Titans Annual #2) comes with an Uzi, revolver and assault rifle.

DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS Series 13 (Mattel, 2010) 6-inch scale: Collect and Connect Trigon. This build-a-figure is made by collecting parts

from every figure in the series. Trigon is 10" and includes a staff. He also includes a cloth cape with wires sewn into the edges so that it can be molded into different shapes.

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES (Mattel, 2010) 6-inch scale: Deathstroke includes a sword, dagger, pistol and bandolier. Chainmail parts of his costume and legs are painted silver.

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES (Mattel, 2010) 6-inch scale: 3-Pack of Robin (Tim Drake), Dr. Light (male version) and Ravager (with dagger). As with Terminator, the chainmail portions of Ravager's costume are simply painted silver.

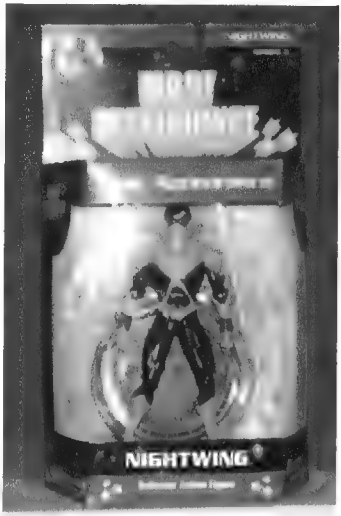
Fans and collectors had been complaining for some time about DC Direct's figures for various reasons, such as the overuse of figures based on Superman and Batman, the lack of articulation in some of the figures, and the fact that many of DC Direct's figures were not made in the same scale—so figures from one line of toys did not match up with figures from other lines. DC Direct decided to take some of the pressure off of themselves by turning the rights to Superman and Batman over to Mattel, which resulted in the *DC Super Heroes* line of figures (this line included Lex Luthor in the Pérez-designed battle armor, which was later re-released as part of the DC Universe Classics line). DC Direct had originally intended to focus on producing figures based on other characters from the DC Universe, but the Mattel toys were so popular with fans that DC decided to also turn the rights to their other characters over to Mattel, which resulted in the current 6-inch scale *DC Universe Classics* and the 4-inch scale *DC Universe Infinite Heroes* lines.

In *Tales of the Teen Ti* #44 (1984), Dick Grayso the original Robin—ado a new costumed identit Nightwing, which was cre by Wolfman and P Although Wolfman and P did not create the chara of Dick Grayson (who c back to 1940), they are considered the co-creator the Nightwing character, though Nightwing has s changed his costume and joined the Batman fa There have been more fig of Nightwing than any c character that Pérez has created or re-designed, most of the figures have Batman-related and are b on the modern version of character. Those based on original Pérez design includ **LEGENDS OF BATM (Kenner, 1994) 5-inch s** After Pérez left the *New Titans* comic book, Night grew a ponytail and mod the yellow feather-like por of his costume into a large v like collar that went ar his shoulders and down his chest in a "V" shape (which is removable). The costume has a yellow belt and strips of yellow aroun gloves and boots. The figure comes with a S Strike Rocket Launcher.

FIRST APPEARANCE Series 3 (DC Di 2005) 6-inch scale: This series featured c characters as they looked when they appeared, so Nightwing is based on the ori Pérez design. However, when the figure ma first appearance, fans expressed displeasure the way it looked, so DC Direct made alternations to the costume—most no extending the yellow feather-like strips ar the shoulders—and replaced the head. Inc a gold base and a mini-comic reproducti *Tales of the Teen Titans* #44.

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL (DC Direct, 2006) 7-inch scale: This has the same design as the *Legends of Batman* figure, including the ponytail. It also comes with a throwing disc. Includes a display base with a Nightwing logo.

DC ORIGINS Series 1 (DC Direct, 2010) 6-inch scale: This series is similar to *First Appearance* in that one of the figures is based on the way the character looked in his first appearance. However, each figure comes in a 2-Pack with its modern counterpart. So, one of the figures is the original Pérez design and the other is the contemporary version of Nightwing. The original figure is 6.25" while the modern one is 6.5".



Other Nightwing figures based on the modern version of the character will only be listed due to their volume. This version has a black mask and costume with a blue V-shape going around the shoulders and down the chest. These include…

THE NEW BATMAN ADVENTURES Series 1 (Kenner, 1997): "Crime Solver" Nightwing
THE NEW BATMAN ADVENTURES Series 2 (Kenner, 1998): "Force Shield" Nightwing, "Deluxe Hydrojet" Nightwing, 12-inch Nightwing
THE NEW BATMAN ADVENTURES Series 4 (Kenner, 2002): "Deluxe Turbo Force" Nightwing
DC SUPER HEROES Series 8 (Mattel, 2006): Nightwing
DC MINIMATES (Art Asylum/DC Direct, 2007): 2-Pack of Nightwing and Starfire
SUPERMAN and BATMAN Series 3 – Public Enemies 2 (DC Direct, 2007): Nightwing
13-INCH DELUXE COLLECTOR'S SERIES (DC Direct, 2007): Nightwing
DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS Series 3 (Mattel, 2008): Nightwing
BATMAN: HUSH (DC Direct, 2009): Nightwing
DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES (Mattel, 2009): Nightwing
DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES (DC Direct, 2010): "Renegade" Nightwing
JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED (Mattel, 2009): Nightwing
JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED (Mattel, 2010): 3-Pack of Nightwing, Batgirl and Penguin

In 1985, after leaving *Teen Titans*, George Pérez again partnered with Marv Wolfman on the year-long mini-series called *Crisis on Infinite Earths*. Celebrating DC's 50th Anniversary, *Crisis* merged all of DC's multiple Earths into one unified Earth and changed DC continuity forever. Virtually every character in DC's 50-year history appeared, new characters were created, and some old characters were killed off (most notably Supergirl and the Flash). Among the new *Crisis* characters co-created by Pérez were the Monitor, Anti-Monitor, Harbinger, Pariah, Lady Quark, Alexander Luthor and a new female version of Dr. Light. Only Pariah and Lady Quark have never been made into action figures. In 2005, DC Direct released a line of CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS figures. There were three waves, including…

CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS Series 1 (2005) 6-inch scale: Earth-2 Robin, Harbinger, Monitor, Psycho Pirate, and Supergirl
CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS Series 2 (2006) 6-inch scale: Anti-Monitor, Brainiac, Earth-2 Superman, Flash (includes a separate Flash "death face"), and Lex Luthor (in battle armor)
CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS Series 3 (2006) 6-inch scale: Batman, Dr. Light

(female), Earth Prime Superboy, Earth-2 Huntress, and Weaponer of Qward

Only Harbinger, Monitor, Anti-Monitor, Lex Luthor and Dr. Light are based on characters that Pérez co-created or re-designed, while the Flash's "death face" is based directly on Pérez's art. All figures come on stands shaped like the *Crisis* logo. There were originally plans to continue the *Crisis* line indefinitely, since almost every character in the DC Universe (at least those created before 1986) could have been included, but the series was cancelled in the wake of fan complaints over the Batman figure from Series 3. The figure used was originally intended to be part of DC Direct's *Batman: Knightfall* series and appears to be based on the work of *Batman* artist Kelly Jones rather than Pérez. The figure was taller than most other *Crisis* figures and had a narrow head, which made it out of proportion with the other figures. Fans were so outraged over the Batman figure that it effectively killed the *Crisis* series. Other *Crisis*-related action figures include…

INFINITE CRISIS Series 1 (DC Direct, 2006) 6-inch scale: Alexander Luthor figure comes with a plastic "wig" based on his original curly hairstyle from *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, which can be worn over his modern haircut.

DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS Series 17 (Mattel, 2011) 6-inch scale: Collect and Connect Anti-Monitor. This build-a-figure is mad collecting parts from every figure in the s Based on the revamped Anti-Monitor "Blackest Night."

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES S 1 (Mattel, 2009) 4-inch scale: Alex Lu Anti-Monitor San Diego Comic-Con Exclu Anti-Monitor 30" San Diego Comic-Con E Exclusive, "Speed Force" Flash (face is base the dying Flash from *Crisis*), Monitor

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HER Classic Crisis (Mattel, 2009) 4-inch scal Pack of Monitor, "Battle Damaged" Supe Psycho-Pirate and Dying Flash. Monitor same figure as the individual release. "D Damaged" Supergirl is the same as "Dy Supergirl, and "Dying" Flash is the san "Speed Force" Flash.

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HER (Mattel, 2010) 4-inch scale: "Dying" Sup (based on Pérez's art from *Crisis* #7)

DC UNIVERSE INFINITE HEROES C Series (Mattel, 2010) 4-inch scale: 3-Pa Harbinger and t Shadow Demons (the Monitor's minions who are made out of sh and are solid black in color).

JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED (M 2006) 4-inch scale: 3-Pack of Dr. (female), Superman and Aquaman.

After changing DC history in Wolfman and Pérez chronicled it in the *H*

of the DC Universe 2-part comic series. Once again, almost every major character in DC's history appeared, and once again, DC Direct released a line of action figures based on the series (perhaps in an effort to pick up where the *Crisis* series left off). The still-ongoing series has yet to include any characters created or designed by Pérez, although it is supposedly based on his art from the *History* comic book. However, some of the figures do not look the same as they do in the comic book. For example, the figure of Blue Devil has red eyes, while the comic version does not. Martian Manhunter is depicted throughout the comic as the modern version with a protruding forehead, but the figure has a normal forehead like the Silver Age version of the character. Also, a few of the characters are only depicted from the waist up in the comic, so those figures cannot be based 100% on Pérez's art. Most significant is that the Kandorian version of Nightwing does not even appear in *History of the DC Universe*, since the bottle city of Kandor was erased from history in John Byrne's revamp of the Superman mythos. Ocean Master, Kobra and the Silver Age version of Brainiac also do not appear in the comic book (but were still part of DC history at the time). The series so far includes…

HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE Series 1 (2009) 7-inch scale: Batman, Blue Devil, Green Arrow (Silver Age version) and Manhunter (Paul Kirk).

HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE Series 2 (2009) 7-inch scale: Aquaman, Black Lightning, Creeper and Flash.

HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE Series 3 (2009) 7-inch scale: Brainiac (Silver Age version), Ocean Master, Plastic Man and Superman.

HISTORY OF DC UNIVERSE Series 4 (2010) 7-inch scale: Captain Atom (Silver Age version), Kobra, Martian Manhunter (Silver Age version) and Nightwing (Silver Age Kandorian version).

After John Byrne had revamped Superman and Frank Miller did the same for Batman, it was Wonder Woman's turn. In 1987, George Pérez took over as artist and (for the first time) writer on the new *Wonder Woman* #1. Among the changes Pérez made to the Wonder Woman mythos was re-designing two of her main enemies—Ares (formerly Mars, which was actually the Greek god's Roman name) and the Cheetah. Ares now sported dark armor and a helmet that concealed his features, except for his eyes, giving the character a very sinister appearance. The Cheetah went from being a woman in a cheetah costume to a savage half-human/half-cheetah created by a mystic ceremony. Both Ares and the Pérez version of the Cheetah have been made into action figures a few times, with both figures appearing in the same toy line almost every time, including…

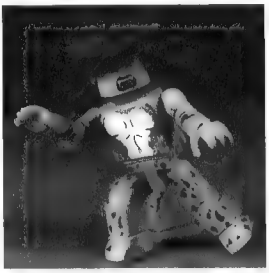
WONDER WOMAN: Amazons and Adversaries (DC Direct, 2001)

6-inch scale: Ares comes with a sword and battle-axe, while Cheetah comes with a display stand that looks like a tree branch.

DC MINIMATES (Art Asylum/ DC Direct, 2006) 2-inch scale: 2-Pack of Wonder Woman and Ares. Wonder Woman comes with her magic lasso, while Ares again has a sword and battle-axe.

DC MINIMATES (Art Asylum/ DC Direct, 2007) 2-inch scale: 2-Pack of "Battle Damaged" Wonder Woman vs. Cheetah

DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS series 4 (Mattel, 2008) 6-inch scale: Ares once again comes with a sword and battle-axe.



JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED Fan Collection (Mattel, 2009) 4-inch scale: 3-Pack of Cheetah, Lex Luthor (Prison Uniform) and The Shade. The DC Animated Universe version of the Cheetah is sort of a cross between the classic and modern Cheetah's. The villainess is still half-human/half-cheetah, but she resembles the classic Cheetah.

DC UNIVERSE CLASSICS Series 13 (Mattel, 2010) 6-inch scale: The Pérez Cheetah is actually a variant figure. The other Cheetah is the Golden Age version. Although the feral Cheetah usually prowls around without any clothing, the action figure comes with a black bikini top and long pants. The figure was intended to have no costume and was originally advertised as such, but apparently, someone must have had a problem with this, as advertising was switched to the costumed Cheetah shortly before the figure was released. However, a few of the original "naked" Cheetah figures made it to stores. Sometimes referred to as the "animal skin" Cheetah, the figure is very rare and usually sells for a hefty sum.

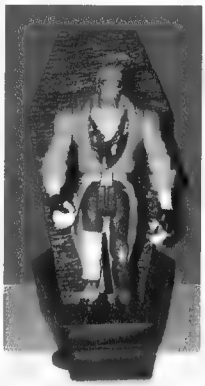
By 1992, George Pérez had returned to Marvel Comics. One of his best-remembered proj from this period is *Hulk: Fu Imperfect*. In this two-part m series written by Peter David, Hulk is transported one hund years into the future, where finds the Earth ruled by his ol evil self—known as the Maes There have been two action fig based on the Maestro so far..

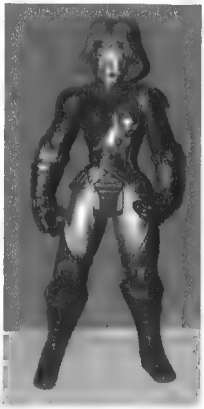
THE INCREDIBLE HU Collection 2 – Transformati (Toy Biz, 1997) 6-inch sc Maestro comes with a variet accessories, which are trop of other super-heroes and su villains he has defeated over years. Included are: Dr. Stran cloak, Thor's hammer, C America's shield, Ghost Ri chain, Wolverine's skele Juggernaut's helmet, Ultr head, Iron Man's helmet, Doom's mask and Nova's helr

MARVEL LEGENDS Se 12 (Toy Biz, 2006) 7-i scale: Maestro comes with a removable hor crown.

In the early 1990s, independent publi Malibu Comics attempted to create a su hero universe of comics to rival that of Ma and DC. Malibu hired many talented vet writers and artists to create what bec known as the "Ultraverse." Among the vet artists Malibu hired was George Pérez. A drawing the Ultraverse crossover mini-s *Break-Thru*, Pérez became artist on *UltraForce*, which the Ultraverse's version of Avengers or Justice Leagu team composed of their top characters like Hardcase, P and Prototype. Pérez and w Gerard Jones also created se new characters for the se These new characters incl the extra-dimensional wa queen named Topaz, undead Ghoul and subterranean vi

Atalon. In 1995, Malibu made a deal with DIC Entertainment to produce a syndicated *UltraForce* animated series and another deal with Galoob to produce a line of UltraForce action figures. Unfortunately, despite their early success, Malibu fell victim to the industry-wide decline in comic sales and was bought out by Marvel Comics, which eventually cancelled the entire Ultraverse line. The toy line didn't fare much better, with most action figures winding up in the bargain bins. According to megocollector.com, some collectors were put off by the fact that there were variant figures of the major characters called the "Ultra 5000" (because only 5,000 of each figure was produced). With just one of these limited edition figures in each case shipped, it was difficult for collectors to put together a complete set. Even the regular figures have now become difficult to find, mostly due to lack of interest after the comic books and animated series were cancelled. A second series of figures and vehicles were never released. Of the characters Pérez designed, only Topaz received a limited edition variant, making four Pérez figures in all…





ULTRAFORCE Series I #4 (Galoob, 1995) 5-inch scale: Atalon includes a Cosmic Cape, Firing Battle Staff, and a small gargoyle figure.

ULTRAFORCE Series I #6 (Galoob, 1995) 5-inch scale: Ghoul includes a coffin, which the figure can be raised and lowered from. Ghoul's head, arms and torso can be detached, and his bones glow in the dark.

ULTRAFORCE Series I #8 (Galoob, 1995) 5-inch scale: Topaz includes a red Energy Rod and a blue-and silver Firing Crystal Staff.

ULTRAFORCE Series I #19 (Galoob, 1995) 5-inch scale: Queen Topaz's skin is colored normal flesh tone instead of the crystal blue skin color of the regular Topaz figure. Also, the bodysuit is colored white instead of dark blue. Includes a blue Energy Rod and blue-and-gold Firing Crystal Staff. The figure also comes with a blue cape with white trim.

As we head into the 21st Century, George Pérez has kept busy with special projects like *JLA/Avengers* and *Legion of 3 Worlds*. While he hasn't been creating as many new characters, he's certainly been drawing plenty of pre-existing ones. Pérez and Marv Wolfman will be returning to the Teen Titans with the *Games* graphic novel, and Pérez will also be working on DC's upcoming *Superman* re-boot. Will there be more action figures based on Pérez creations, costume designs and artwork? With DC Direct's *History of the DC Universe* series and Mattel's *DC Universe Classics* and *DC Universe Infinie Heroes* lines still going strong, you can bet there will! Already announced for the coming year are the "Flashpoint" version of Cyborg from DC DIRECT, and 16-inch-scale dolls of Starfire and Raven from Tonner Doll Company. If there's anything else out there that we've missed, feel free to contribute to the list. We've only covered action figures in this article—with plenty of PVC figures, statues, and the entire line of toys based on the *Teen Titans* animated series, there's still plenty more George Pérez figures out there!

Sources used in this article include:
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www.actionfigureinsider.com/archives/sp/spfind/index.html?
www.cooltoyreview.com
www.megocollector.com/action-figures/galoob-ultraforce-asst-75596/
www.titanstower.com/recroom.html

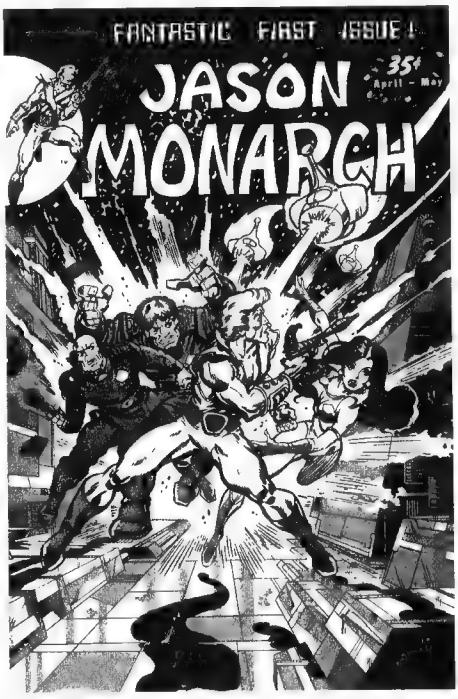
Photos provided by:
Dan Curto of cooltoyreview.com
David T. Allen

Thanks to Andy Mangels, Vu Nguyen and George Pérez for their contributions to this article.

The Case of the Missing Portfolios

by Manny Fiori

I dare you to look back to the late 1970s and I'll do my best not to place any of you into a coma. I'm talking about the Golden age of CBAP—Comic Book Art Portfolios, which was roughly from 1970 to 1989. Back then, if you wanted to keep your name in the spotlight, while earning some lunch money on the side, some artists would draw a set of plates for a small press who'd publish and distribute them. These portfolios served a dual purpose: one, to show their artistic skills in a larger format; and two, it served as a business card with the words "Hire Me" written in the margins with invisible ink that only an editor could see. One of the missing links in George Pérez's nearly forty-year career was his first portfolio, *Pérez: Accent on the first E*, which, like the mythic Excalibur, is both rare and legendary. The next best thing to owning this portfolio is the knowledge gained by researching it.



In1977 Omnibus Publishing, headed by Dave Lillard, published a comic book titled, *Jason Monarch*. The comic was printed in black and white, and was cover dated April-May and priced at 35 cents. On the seventh page, there was an advertisement done as a standard comic book page, in an eight-panel grid. advertisement was an order form for Mr. Pé portfolio. In researching this story, I bec aware of the following details, which may b interest to all George Pérez fans:

1) Omnibus Publishing appears to been the sole wholesaler/distributor for portfolio. After a flood at their offices rou ninety copies of portfolio survived

2) The ad penciled by Ge Pérez and inked Michael Higgins. entire page was d with a mix of s heroes and two toon characters ated for the ad.

3) The car characters "Glip Glop" were create George Pérez— possibly being first and last ap ance in print- Omnibus publish

4) Who wrot script for the a mains a mystery. it Michael Hig George Pérez, Lillard, or som else?*

As a footnot interesting to point out that Mr. Pérez mar to cram sixteen Marvel Comics characters i two panels, numbered five and eight, with DC characters thrown in for good mea How many can you find? Go ahead. C them!

**Editor's note: The copy for the ad was written by George Pérez with Mike Higgins providing the let*

ON AN ASTEROID FAR, FAR AWAY...
READING, GLOP.
HEY, GLIP, WATCHA DOIN?
HOPPIN' SPACE TOADS! WHAT'S THAT?
NEWEST THING FROM EARTH, IT'S CALLED PEREZ --ACCENT ON THE FIRST 'E'.
ANOTHER PORTFOLIO? JEEZ, THEY'RE ALL THE SAME!
WRONGO, GLOP! THIS ONE'S DIFFERENT, YESSIR!
THIS ONE'S SPECIAL!
ALL THE FULL-PAGE PIN-UPS WERE DONE ESPECIALLY FOR THIS BOOK!
ALL OF THEM?
YEAH, ALL 35 OF 'EM! AND THEY'VE ALL BEEN REPRODUCED FROM GEORGE PEREZ' PENCILS.
AND IT'S GOT A BIOGRAPHY BY RALPH MACCHIO AND A BEAUTIFUL FULL-COLOR WRAP-AROUND COVER THAT'LL KNOCK YOU OUT! IT'S PEREZ AT HIS BEST!
AND IT'S SO SLICK AND STURDY! IT MUST COST A FORTUNE!!
WELL, NO EXPENSE HAS BEEN SPARED...
...BUT IT ONLY COSTS $5.00 Plus $.75 Shipping.
$5.00!! GANGWAY!
GLOP WHERE YA GOIN'?
TO SPACE MAIL EXPRESS TO ORDER MY COPY OF PEREZ-- ACCENT ON THE FIRST 'E'!
WHAT WAS THAT MAILIN' ADDRESS?
USE THIS COUPON, CHUM.
Send Check or M.O. to:
OMNIBUS PUBLISHING Co.
P.O. Box 23127
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48223
Please Send me ____ copies of PEREZ. Enclosed is $5.00 plus $.75 postage per copy.
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip ____
ONLY 90 Left !!
PEREZ & Higgins

The Haunt of Horror

by Manny Fiori

True Story.

"Roger, can I speak to you for a bit?" said Stan Lee, the publisher of Marvel Comics and the new *Marvel Magazine* line. He was responding to Roger Slifer's request to meet with him.

It was the spring of 1977 and Roger Slifer had recently been promoted to Marvel Magazine line Editor. Stan Lee walked Roger Slifer into his office for a brief conversation.

Lee went on: "I've only got a minute. This is probably the only chance I'm going to get for the next few days. What's on your mind?"

"I want to do a Horror Magazine!" blurted Roger, excited to voice his big idea.

At that point he explained his plans for reviving the *Haunt Of Horrors*. The loss of original title left a vacuum when the comic book series had been canceled without fanfare. Roger Slifer pitched Stan Lee on an idea of a rotating cast of Marvel's horror characters, with a revolving door of writers and artists.

After a brief contemplation, with a looming luncheon date with Marvel Comics president Jim Galton, Stan Lee said, "All Right. Let's go with it as a one-shot. Can we have it on sale by Halloween?"

"A one shot?" shouted Roger, barely concealing his disappointm "Just a one-shot?"

"Would you feel better about it if we m it a quarterly?"

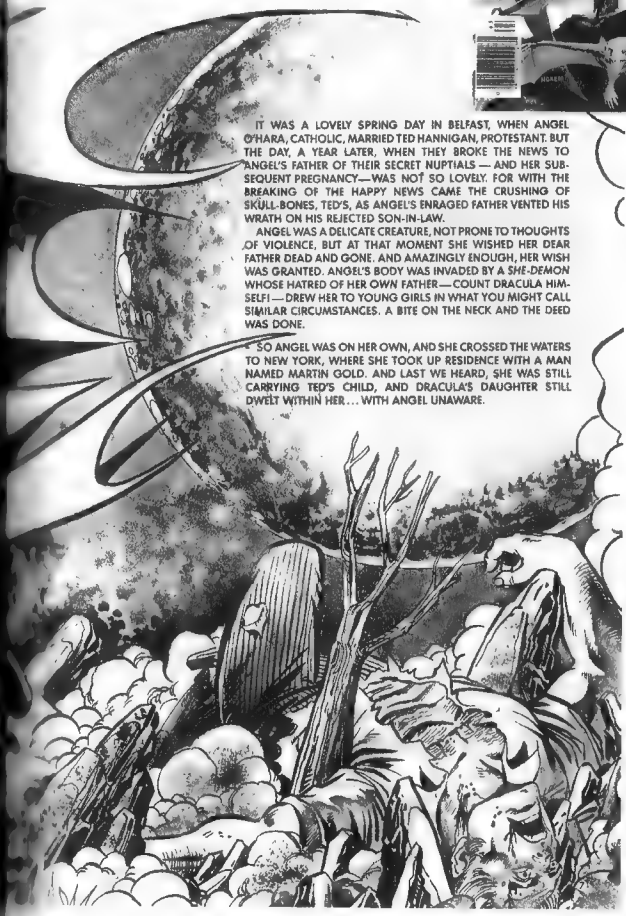
Roger Slifer smiled.

Marvel Preview Presents: The Haun Horrors # 12, went on sale as scheduled in autumn of 1977. Every writer, penciler,

Inker, is credited on the contents page, except for a young George Pérez. However, Steve Gerber, inker Pablo Marcos, and George Pérez were credited at the bottom of page six.

The double-page spread on pages 6 and 7 was of Lilith, Daughter of Dracula. Lilith had a plunging neckline and heaving bosoms which, for a thirteen year-old, was a delicious cream-filled, pulp fiction Twinkie of almost soft porn goodness! This was George Pérez penciling in that classic Marvel house style of the 1970s. This drawing of Lilith was important, due to its ghostly omen of what was to come. For example:

This illustration shows the early beginnings of the famous George Pérez detailed rocks


IT WAS A LOVELY SPRING DAY IN BELFAST, WHEN ANGEL O'HARA, CATHOLIC, MARRIED TED HANNIGAN, PROTESTANT. BUT THE DAY, A YEAR LATER, WHEN THEY BROKE THE NEWS TO ANGEL'S FATHER OF THEIR SECRET NUPTIALS — AND HER SUBSEQUENT PREGNANCY—WAS NOT SO LOVELY. FOR WITH THE BREAKING OF THE HAPPY NEWS CAME THE CRUSHING OF SKULL-BONES, TED'S, AS ANGEL'S ENRAGED FATHER VENTED HIS WRATH ON HIS REJECTED SON-IN-LAW.
ANGEL WAS A DELICATE CREATURE, NOT PRONE TO THOUGHTS OF VIOLENCE, BUT AT THAT MOMENT SHE WISHED HER DEAR FATHER DEAD AND GONE. AND AMAZINGLY ENOUGH, HER WISH WAS GRANTED. ANGEL'S BODY WAS INVADED BY A SHE-DEMON WHOSE HATRED OF HER OWN FATHER — COUNT DRACULA HIMSELF! — DREW HER TO YOUNG GIRLS IN WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. A BITE ON THE NECK AND THE DEED WAS DONE.
SO ANGEL WAS ON HER OWN, AND SHE CROSSED THE WATERS TO NEW YORK, WHERE SHE TOOK UP RESIDENCE WITH A MAN NAMED MARTIN GOLD. AND LAST WE HEARD, SHE WAS STILL CARRYING TED'S CHILD, AND DRACULA'S DAUGHTER STILL DWELT WITHIN HER... WITH ANGEL UNAWARE.

and earth and the classic billowing smoke that always seem to have lives of their own. These would become unique George Pérez visual signatures, which he would later use to great effect.

There is the upturned rocks and ground, and broken saplings of a dead forest; all fringed by a huge full moon, a human skull, and a dead man—the victim of Lilith's kiss.

Oh, and the mouse. Don't forget the mouse. Yes, I'm serious.

I believe this cameo is the first appearance of such a small critter in the greater canon of George Pérez's artistic career. A minor footnote, perhaps... one I hope that the fans and the maestro himself will find curious and humorous just the same.

If you can't find it, the mouse is on top of the skull!

BASKING IN THE MOONLIGHT

George's Return to Community Theater

by Tabitha Johnson

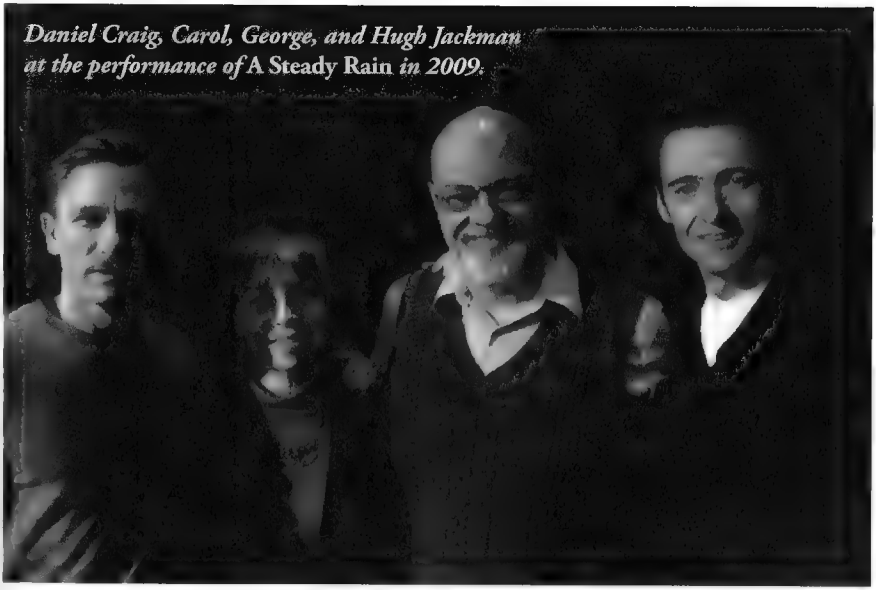
George Pérez is no stranger to the stage. Throughout his life, he has always been a participant in the performing arts, whether he is onstage, directing, or just enjoying a show as a patron. Throughout his career as an artist, he has been able to enjoy live theater around the world, something that he looks back on fondly, especially when it's a show that he and Carol can enjoy together!

George's love of theater and live performance began when he was a young child living in New York. Somewhere between his first and third grade year, his class did a small play where he "vaguely remembers" playing a boy named Johnny, who gets to not only take a trip to Cape Canaveral, but also into space as well. A role as the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* followed shortly thereafter, despite his costume's propensity to rip or peel off of his body as he performed. None of this discouraged him, but only piqed his interest in live theater, and in 1969 he attended Camp Rising Sun in Rhinebeck, New York, which is where his theater career would truly take off.

"I got my first real theatrical experience there when I played Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado*, an operetta, no less!" George says in regards to his early years in the theater. This would prove a turning point for him; it was discovered that only could he act, but he could sing as well! His following roles would include "The Professor" in an unknown play called *High Sign* and "King Henry II" in an excerpt from *Becket* for a variety show at Camp Rising Sun. High school drama roles in *110 in the Shade*, the musical version of *The Rainmaker*, would then follow, before a decade-long break spent focusing on his ca as an artist. Eventually he would join sc community theaters in Queens, New York the 80s, which found him in a variety of ro including Rusty Charlie in *Guys and D* the title role in *Li'l Abner*, Daddy Warbu in *Annie* (to which he points out the hur in having a cartoonist playing two co strip characters), Emile in *South Pacific*, Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz* ("After losing on playing the Cowardly Lion due to se ing my Achilles tendon during auditio and the Candy Store Owner and Slugwo in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Fact*

His directorial debut came in a proc tion of *The Sound of Music*, which wo be his final production for the commu theater there due to his injured ankle and move to Florida.

George continued to be a patron of theater while living in Florida, as wel continuing to see shows around the cou whenever his schedule allowed when dc convention appearances—including mak family and friends jealous by going backs after *A Steady Rain* and spending time v Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig!—or d ing personal vacations. Through being wife Carol's (Phoenicia's) biggest fan at a her belly-dance performances, their circl friends continued to grow, and at the Flo Tribal Dance Christmas party in 2007, I Canavan learned of George's performanc *Guys and Dolls* and invited them to com the Moonlight Players Warehouse theat Clermont, Florida, where she was perfo ing in their production of the show. Ge and Carol accepted the invitation, wh



Daniel Craig, Carol, George, and Hugh Jackman at the performance of A Steady Rain *in 2009.*

turned into a partnership that has changed almost every aspect of this small, but amazing, theater.

"Carol and I were mostly impressed by how creatively they managed to utilize such a small stage for what is usually a grand production. While its limitations were obvious and the budget meager, the amount of talent and craft on that small stage was very impressive. As a dancer, Carol was particularly impressed by the caliber of the dancing, especially the young males, something particularly rare in amateur theatre," says George of the performance of *Guys and Dolls* that they attended. George was so impressed that he decided to return to community theater and be part of the Moonlight Players, over a decade after leaving New York City.

The Moonlight Players is a community theater located in Clermont, Florida, which produces between six and eight shows per season. The theater began in 1994, when Jan Sheldon decided that she was tired of driving the distances between the community theater venues in Lake County and wanted to begin one of her own; a place where families could come together, where young people could go to do something positive, and just be able to bring theater into her neighborhood. Together with Sara Anchor, she took $500 that her father gave her for a birthday gift and used it to produce *The Sound of Music*. As their first performance, they hadn't yet found a permanent home, so the first Moonlight Players production was put on at the South Lake High School auditorium.

They then moved on to the Lakeridge Winery in November of 1994, using the performance space there to put on a host of popular shows; however, not having a home of their own made rehearsals difficult. Rehearsal space was found wherever there was room—a coffee shop, a parking lot, and the lobby of the Citrus Tower were some of Jan's most memorable. But despite the challenges, they were still able to put together an impressive season, including *Nunsense* (which would prove to be so popular that they did an encore show a few years later) and their first Shakespeare production, *The*

The Moonlight Players

George Pérez joined The Moonlight Players in 2008 by being coerced onstage in one-time cameo parts in *Barefoot in the Park* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. He joined them full-time onstage the next year in their production of *Li'l Abner* as General Bullmoose, also designing the set pieces for the show. He originally played the title role in a production 24 years before. He followed that up with the role of PooBah in *The Mikado*, reprising a character he had portrayed in New York. In 2010 he performed in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as Jacob, Potiphar and a Guru, also designing the set pieces for the show. George designed Moonlight's most recent two-moon logo and has drawn the program artwork for the last three seasons. The Moonlight Players are honored to call George one of their own.

The Moonlight Players at the Moonlight Warehouse Theatre

In 1994, The Moonlight Players began producing shows with *The Sound of Music* at the new South Lake High School auditorium. For the next five years they produced 23 more shows at various locations in the local area. July 31, 1999 brought the grand opening of the Moonlight Warehouse Theatre with Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* set in the old west. Since then, besides over 100 more plays, they have had music events, a radio production of *War of the Worlds*, classes in the art of mime, auditioning, and acting classes, Saturday events for young people, and currently have a young people's Improv Group. Moonlight has seen everything from musicals to drama to slap-stick comedy.

The Moonlight Players strive to enhance our community; to bring joy to our patrons; to offer a supportive venue for both the budding and the veteran performer; and to provide a safe haven for families and children. They act, dance, sing, paint create! The Moonlight Players are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Top right: George as General Bullmoose in Li'l Abner, *with Camille Bishop as Appassionata von Climax and Michae Kanago as Evil-Eye Fleagle.*
Bottom left: George as Potiphar (top) and Jacob (bottom)in Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.
Bottom right: George as Pooh Bah in The Mikado.

The Moonlight Players 2011-2012 Season

Willy Wonka - September 23 - October 23, 2011, Roald Dahl, Lyrics/Music Leslie Bricusse, Anthony Newley
Pinocchio - November 18 - December 11, 2011, William Glennon
Nine, the Musical - January 13 - February 12, 2012, Arthur Kopit, Music Maury Yeston
Blithe Spirit - March 9 - April 1, 2012, Noel Coward
Godspell - Apr. 20-May 13, 201, John Michael Tebelak, Music/Lyrics Stephen Schwartz
Damn Yankees - June 8 - July 1, 2012, George Abbott, Douglass Wallop, Music/Lyrics Richard Adler, Jerry Ross
Our Town - July 27 - August 19, 2012, Thornton Wilder

The Moonlight Warehouse Theatre
732 Montrose Street • Clermont, Florida 34712
Message Line: 352.319.1116 • MoonlightPlayers.com

Merry Wives of Windsor. They were making a name for themselves and building a following in the community, but they needed to find a home of their own.

Locations such as The Citrus Sun Club, The Mulberry Inn, and The Melon Patch Theater became home for several productions as the search of a permanent location continued. They found another temporary home at the Jenkins Auditorium in 1996. *Dracula* became the first show of their official first season. Even though they were grateful to have found those locations, the need for a stable, permanent theater became necessary to house their increasing productions.

July 31, 1999 would become an important date in Moonlight history, as it was the day that the Moonlight Players Warehouse theatre opened to the public with a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The adding of the word "Warehouse" to the title was apt; the building was originally a car shop complete with metal floors and a garage door that was still present at their first performance. But despite the small space, the theater has hosted over one hundred productions and provides a place for their community to get involved with the theater. The Luna-Tics is an improv group of under-21s that provides a monthly comedy performance, giving teens and young adults to get together in a positive, supportive place. Summer Camps are held at the theater to expose elementary school age children to the theater; some of them might never have experienced it otherwise. The performance space is also used by local homeschooled teens and children, where the seniors choose and direct a show, casting the younger children in roles and performing it for family and friends.

Pam Canavan, who invited George and Carol to the Moonlight Players to begin with, has been involved in the theater since 2005, when her then thirteen year-old son James began taking acting classes at the theater. *Two Gentlemen in Verona* would solidify the Canavan family to the theater, as James was cast in one role and husband Don was cast in three. To make it a family affair, Pam came in to provide back of house support. *Guys and Dolls* was her first onstage performance, and the starting point for George's involvement.

"Due to my busy schedule, I doubted I would ever actually perform on stage again. I do tend to get so deeply involved in my stage work that my comics deadlines suffer. I usually end up volunteering to do everything, including program art, set design and coming into rehearsals to help out even when I'm not on the call list that day. My initial involvement with Moonlight was as a cover artist for their program books. *Barefoot in the Park* was my first," says George, but as he said, he would soon be involved in all of those things and more. George's first appearance in a Moonlight production (and his return to the stage) was in *Barefoot in the Park*, when director Nick Lamb, who is a fan of George, called him up during a performance to do a small role. Then came *Much Ado About Nothing*, where he was again pulled from the audience to read a part as a sexton, reading off a scroll he was given. "I impressed them all by knowing how to pronounce the word 'malefactor'," George quips about the performance. "I was being drawn in slowly but surely into the Moonlight."

Given George's schedule, his first contribution to the theater was, of course, artwork. He designed program covers for most of the 2008-2009 season, and has promised to continue providing them as the seasons progress. When asked which cover was his favorite, he replied, "Tough call. The ones I like the most are the ones that allow me to try stuff that I never get to do as a comic book artist. I love coming up with clever designs. Among my favorites are *Carousel*, *Babes in Toyland*, *The Mikado*, *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*,

The Odd Couple, Macbeth and *Arsenic and Old Lace*."

But, as he predicted would happen, he started becoming more and more involved in the productions, and returned to the stage as "General Bullmoose" in their 2009 production of *Li'l Abner*. He also provided a comic strip to put in the program, an exclusive piece that was only available there. This would be his first role with Denise Truscott, who had been working with the Moonlight Players after her own near-decade absence from the stage. She was surprised to see that someone so famous was such an everyday guy. "He is so generous with the other artists. He always talks to them as if they are equals and shows a genuine interest in what they do." Working with George on the show, she remembers, "He is very touchy-feely, he hugs you, takes an interest in you. He tries to be part of the family."

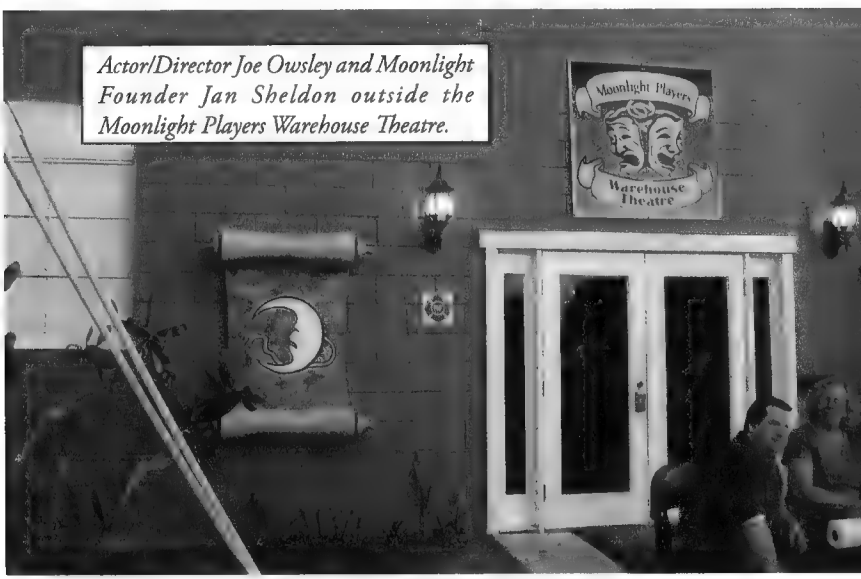
He reprised his role as Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado* that season as well, forty years after his original portrayal at Camp Rising Sun. George reminisces about the part: "*The Mikado* is probably still my favorite due to the size of the role, the nostalgia of recreating th part after forty years and working with suc an incredible cast and crew."

Pam enjoyed it as well, as her son Jame would share the stage with George. "I love watching the interaction between them, she says, "and George was hilarious! He wa doing lots of different voices. He has suc great chemistry!"

Denise Truscott enjoyed performing wit George in her role as Pitti-Sing. "I got to bea him up!" she says.

George has one other reason for lovin that production: "I'm a relatively tall man a 6'2" and was definitely not used to being th *fifth* tallest member of any cast. One choru member, Matt Waldeck (who played th title role in *Li'l Abner*) was 6'7", Nanki Po (Kyle Harden) was 6'5" and Pish Tush (Jos Counsel) and the Mikado (Scott Mills) wer both 6'4"—and we were all playing Japanes characters!"

Joseph and the Amazing Technicol Dreamcoat is one of Jan Sheldon's favorit shows. She was the director of their produc tion of the show in the 2008-2009 seaso



Actor/Director Joe Owsley and Moonlight Founder Jan Sheldon outside the Moonlight Players Warehouse Theatre.

She saw that some of the young actors were fighting illness, family trouble, and other difficulties, but their involvement in the show gave them a reprieve. "Being in the show brought them to a good place," Jan recalls. "It gave them a light at the end of the tunnel." The production would find George performing in the roles of Jacob and Potiphar, as well as stepping up his involvement by becoming the set designer and co-sponsor. Jan loved having a chance to direct George. "He was a ball to work with. He's just a big kid having fun."

His roles in the show would have sentimental meaning for him, as it provided the opportunity to "hang around the great cast again, including my new nieces Camille, Charity and Nicole, all of us performing on a stage I designed." Even Carol appeared in the production. Unbeknownst to her, George drew a portrait of her and held it up when he sang "Joseph's mother, she was quite my favorite wife, I never really loved another all my life" during the song "Joseph's Coat." George also made sure to keep the small, emaciated sheep standee used in "Those Cananan Days" to present to Carol, who adores sheep and fell in love with it at the performance she attended.

Jan would later say that George's turn as "Potiphar" was her favorite. "His facial expressions were amazing. He just grabbed on and threw himself into the role."

Due to George's schedule and the distance between his home and the theater in Clermont, he is unable to perform in every show, but he continues to be a part of each production as a co-sponsor for their shows. Jan sees George as a "guardian angel," as his donations have provided many benefits to the theater. Given the theater's success, they are yet again on the hunt for a new, bigger facility, and have an ongoing "Building Fund," to which George has given several donations. His contributions provided the funds necessary to get musicians for the theater's production of *Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street.* He surprised the cast of *Romeo and Juliet* two-fold; first, by adding portrait drawings of each cast member on the lobby card, and secondly, by raising the money needed to get a professional recording of the performance.

George explains his gift to the cast: "I

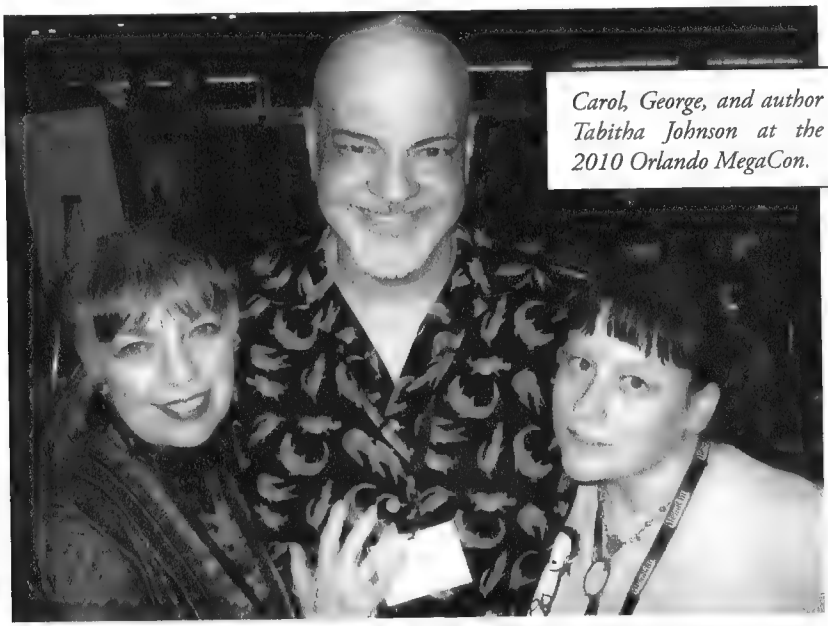
Above: Moonlight Musical Director Dan Martin and Treasurer Ro Alexander. Left: concessions stand at the Moonlight Players Warehouse Theatre.

thought that it was a shame that so many stage shows are not memorialized on video and, knowing that so many of the young cast members were students and would be unable to afford getting copies of any video of the show, I raised funds to pay for the video production crew and provide copies for every member who couldn't otherwise afford it."

Pam is pleased with the outcome as well. "It's wonderful because he's so wonderful," she says. "This is something he loves as well, despite the distance and the schedule concerns. I'm glad it's worked out so well."

Tell George that he's a "guardian angel," however, and he'll say this: "I am honored to be among these incredibly talented and dedicated people. While many were initially starry-eyed about the 'famous comic book artist George Pérez' being among them, I actually feel the same way about them. I work hard to be worthy of sharing the stage with all of them." The cast and crew of the shows work hard to have the theater be a place where he can relax and be himself, despite being surrounded by his artwork in the lobby. But it's always impossible to escape spending time with George without feeling like you've been with someone special.

"During the production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, one of the brothers, who spoke French, said that it originally drove him nuts that George was mispronouncing *joie de vivre* in 'Those Canaan Days' every time he sang it," remembers Jan of directing the show. "But after a few days, he said that it didn't matter. George is so full of *joie de vivre* himself, it doesn't matter how he says it."



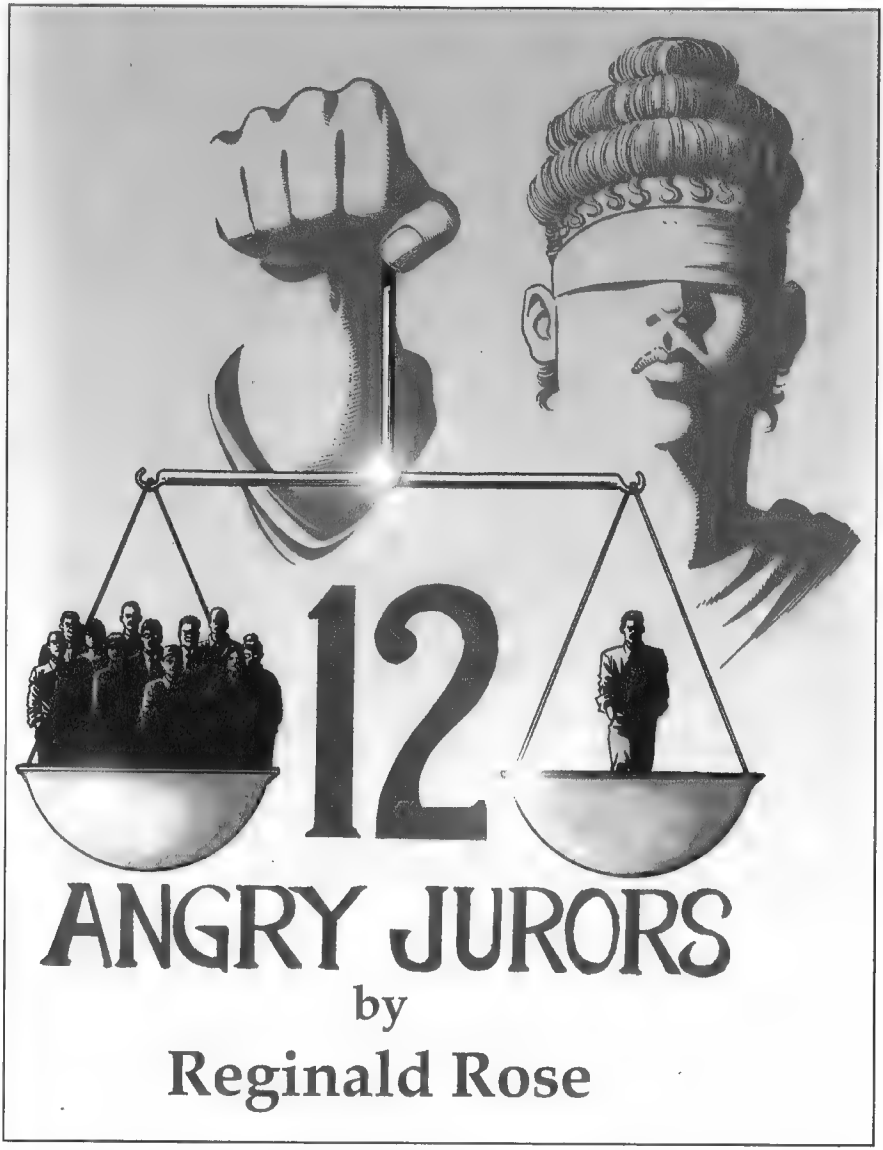
Carol, George, and author Tabitha Johnson at the 2010 Orlando MegaCon.

To get more information about the Moonlight Players Warehouse theatre, visit their website at http://moonlightplayers.com, or if you live in the central Florida area, come to a show! The theater is located at 732 B W. Montrose Street in Clermont, Florida

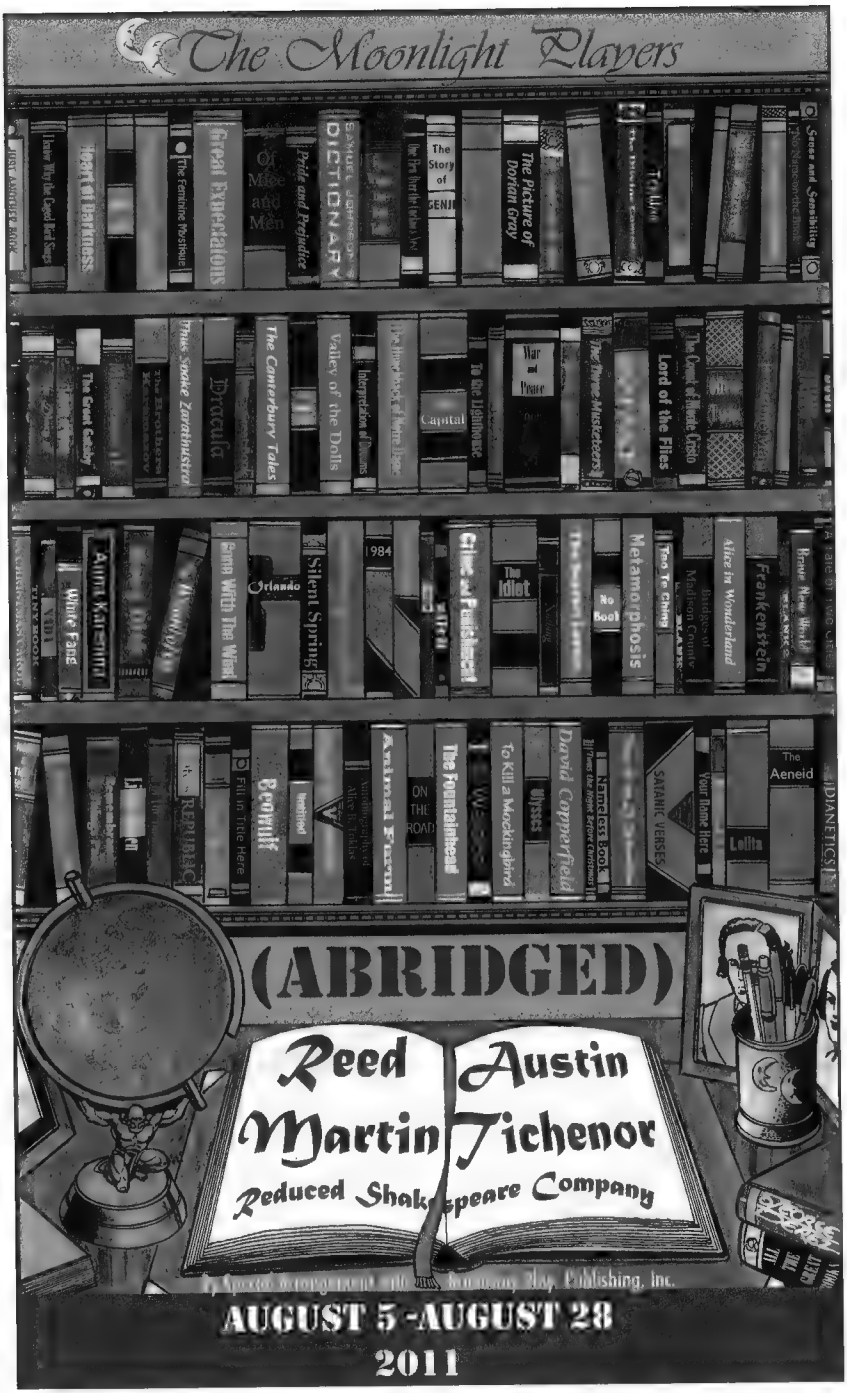
Interested in the programs that feature George's artwork? Limited quantities of select programs are available for a $5 donation to the Moonlight Players Building Fund. Contact Tabitha Johnson at psychochip@hotmail.com for a list of available programs. Paypal payment is accepted.

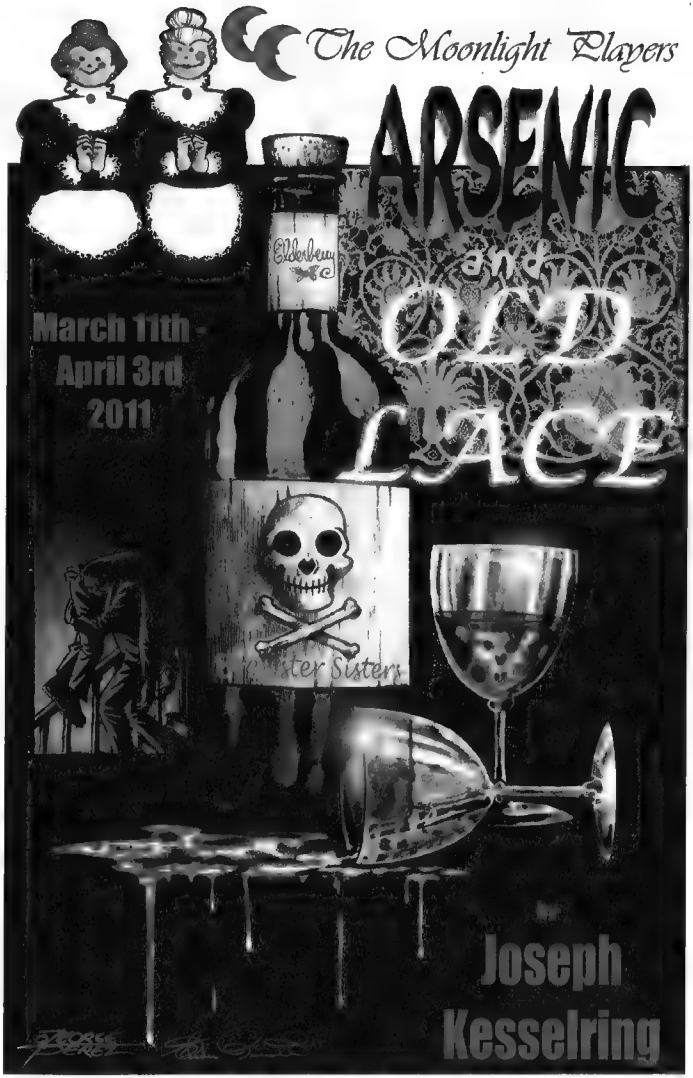
GEORGE PÉREZ GALLERY

And now, what is often considered everyone's favorite feature of PACESETTER, we have the George Pérez Art Gallery. Culled from the years, published and unpublished, sketch and rendered drawing... it's all here for your enjoyment!

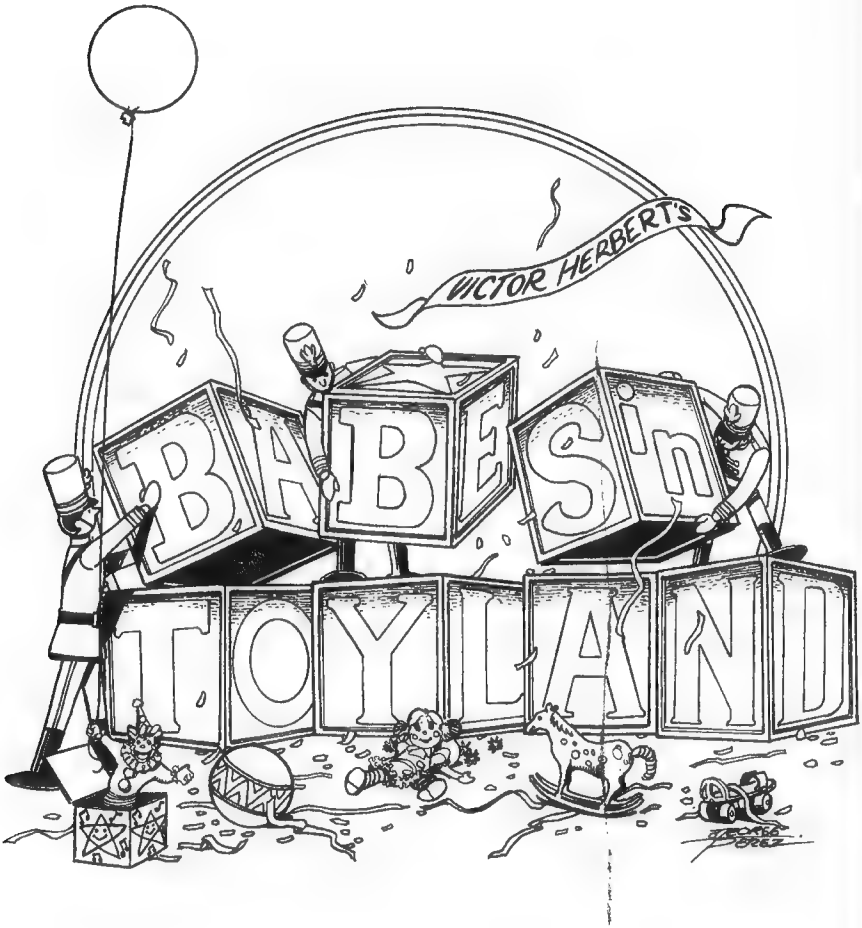


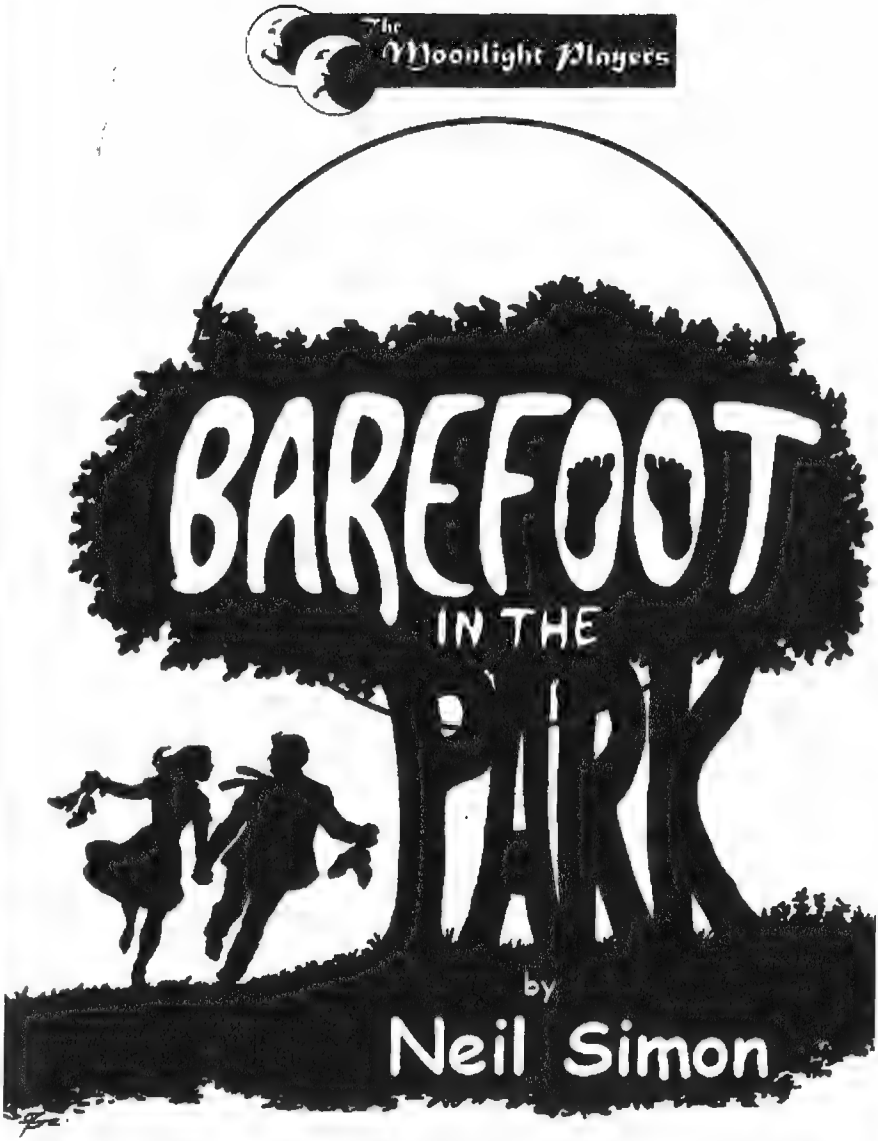
Starting off the Gallery is a selection of George's covers for the Moonlight Players' productions

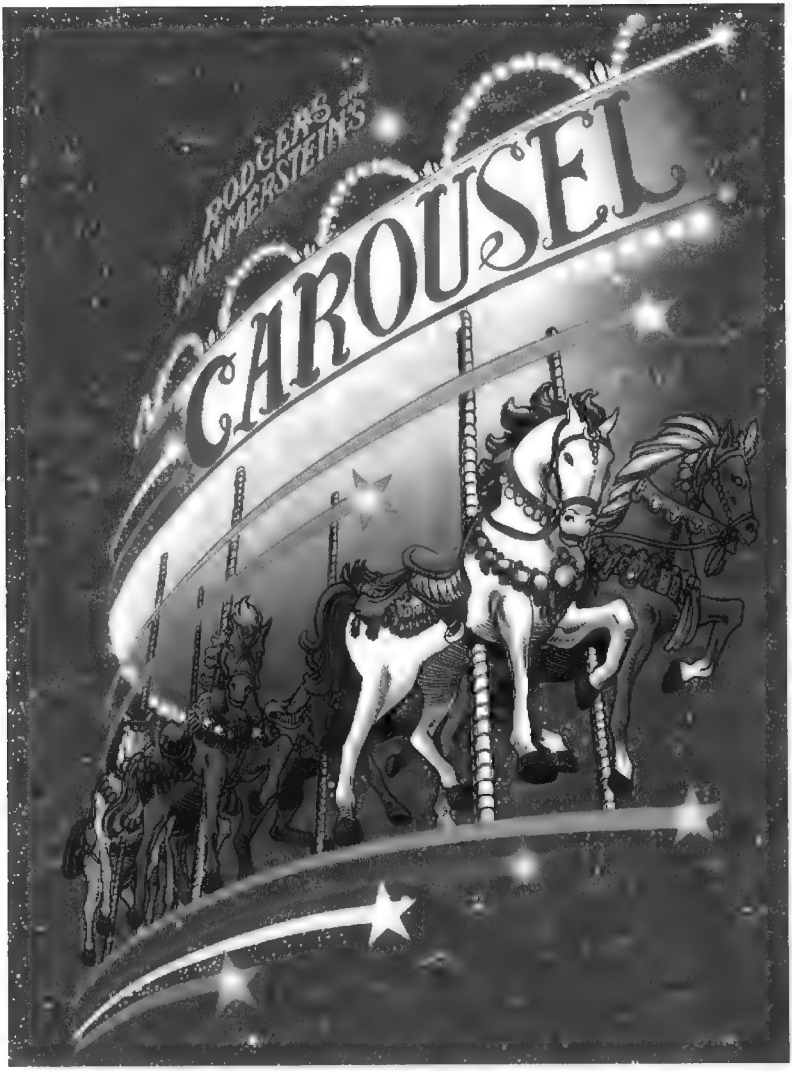

The Moonlight Players
(ABRIDGED)
Reed Austin
Martin Tichenor
Reduced Shakespeare Company
AUGUST 5 - AUGUST 28
2011

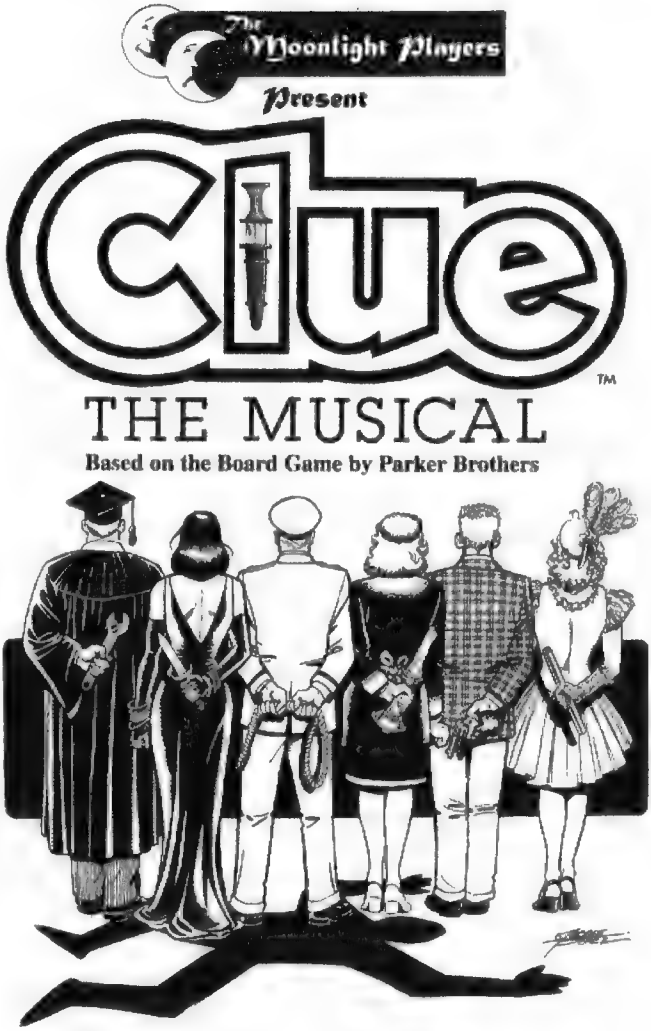


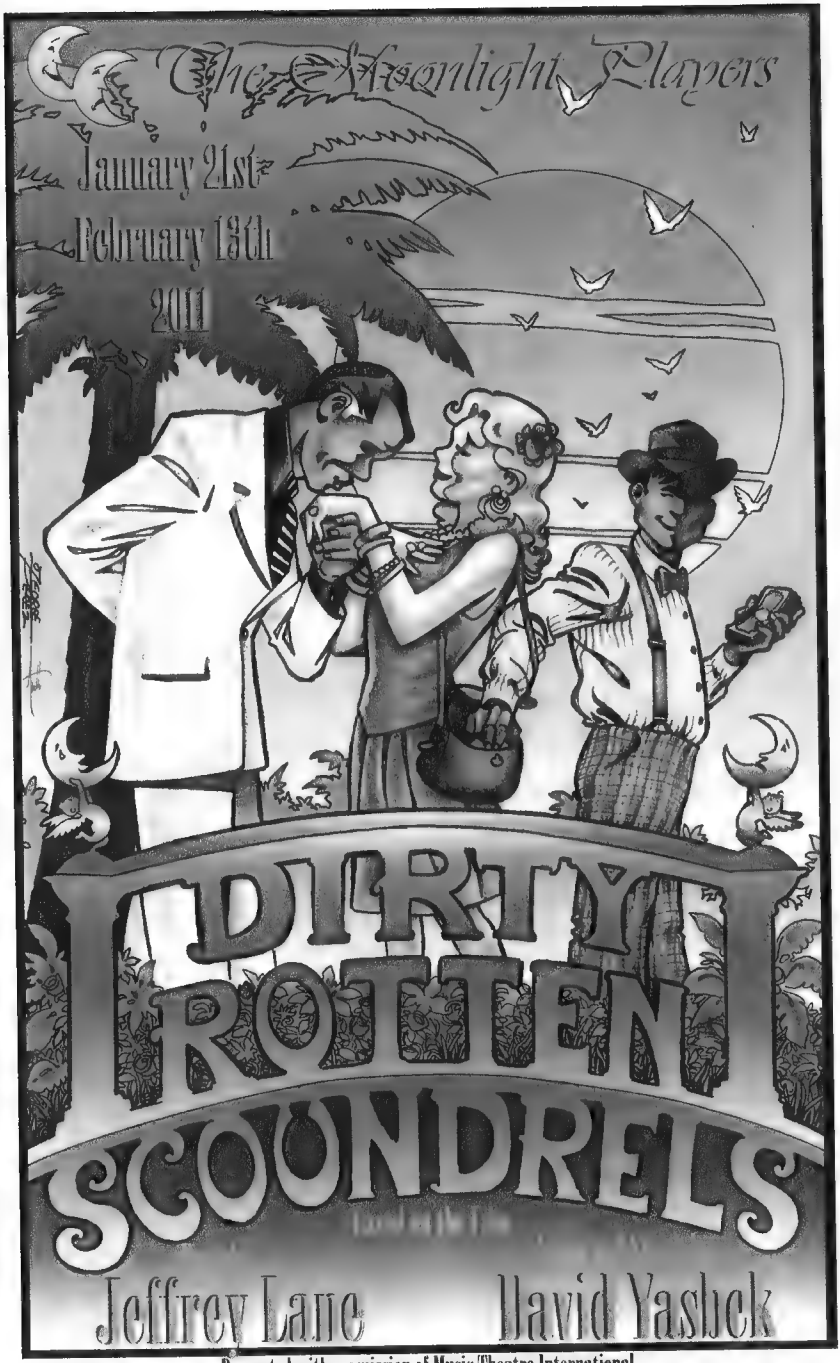
Presented with permission of Dramatists Play Service


VICTOR HERBERT'S
BABES in
TOYLAND


The Moonlight Players
BAREFOOT
IN THE
PARK
by
Neil Simon


RODGERS
HAMMERSTEIN'S
CAROUSEL


The Moonlight Players
Present
Clue
THE MUSICAL
Based on the Board Game by Parker Brothers



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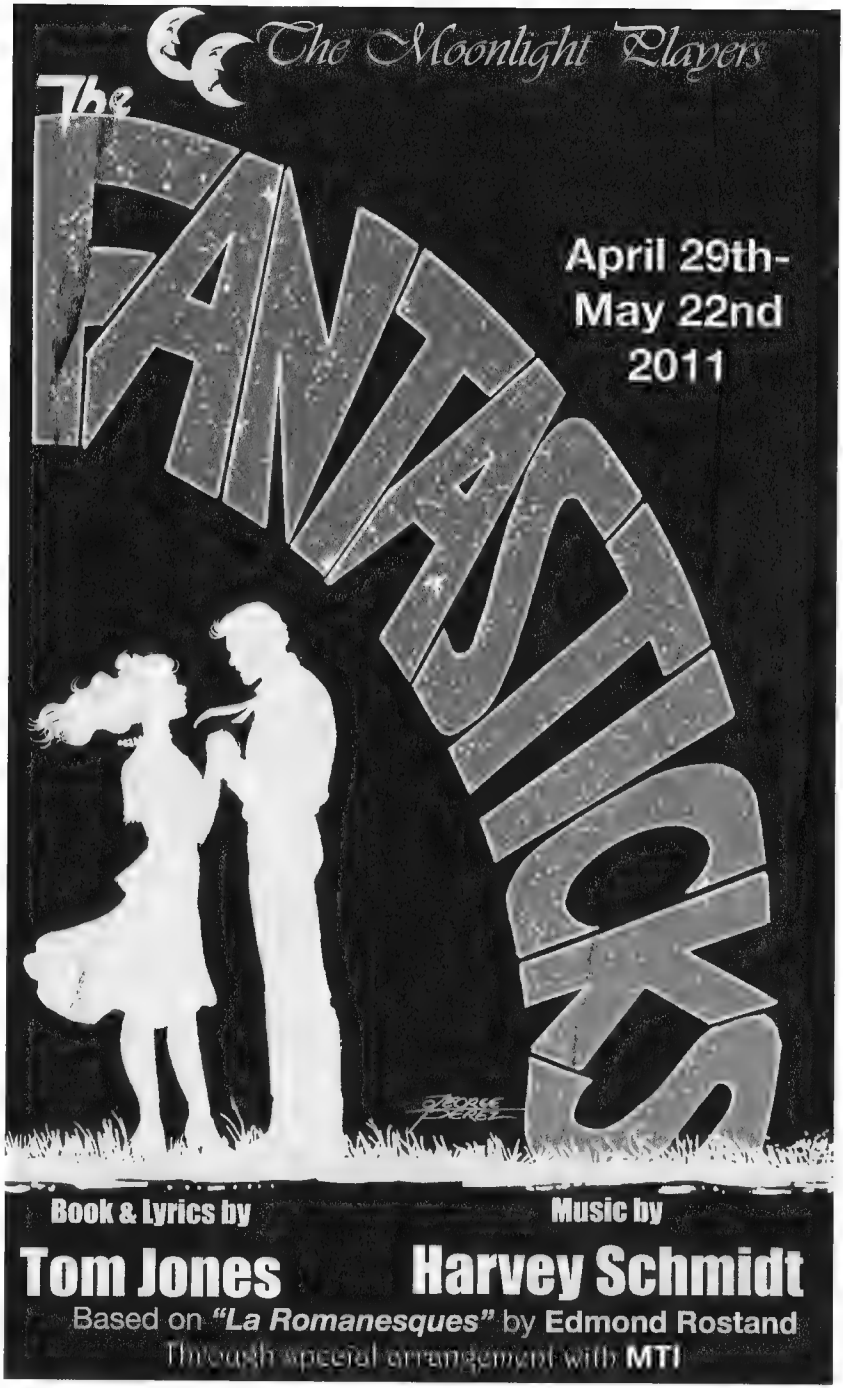
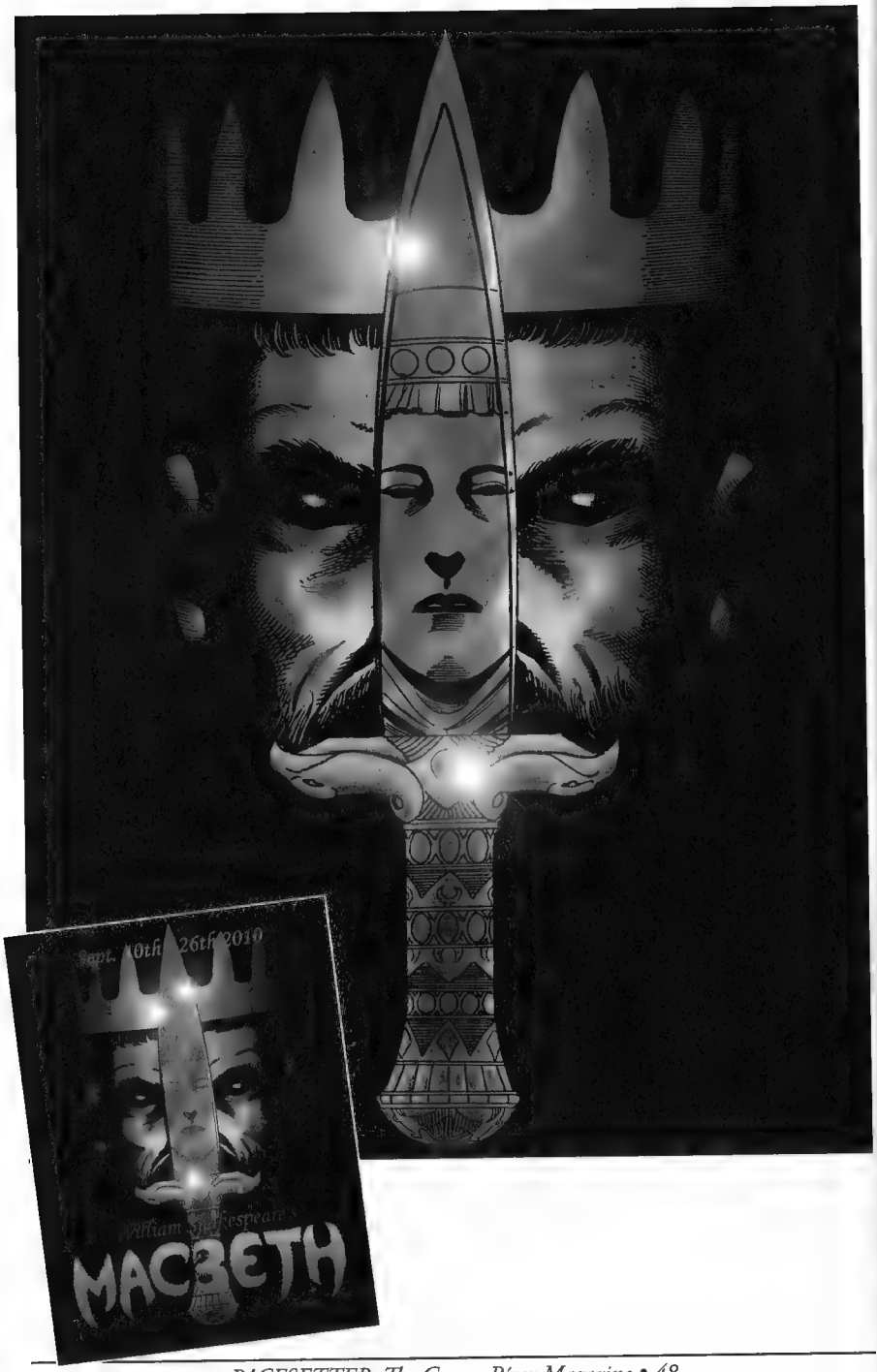
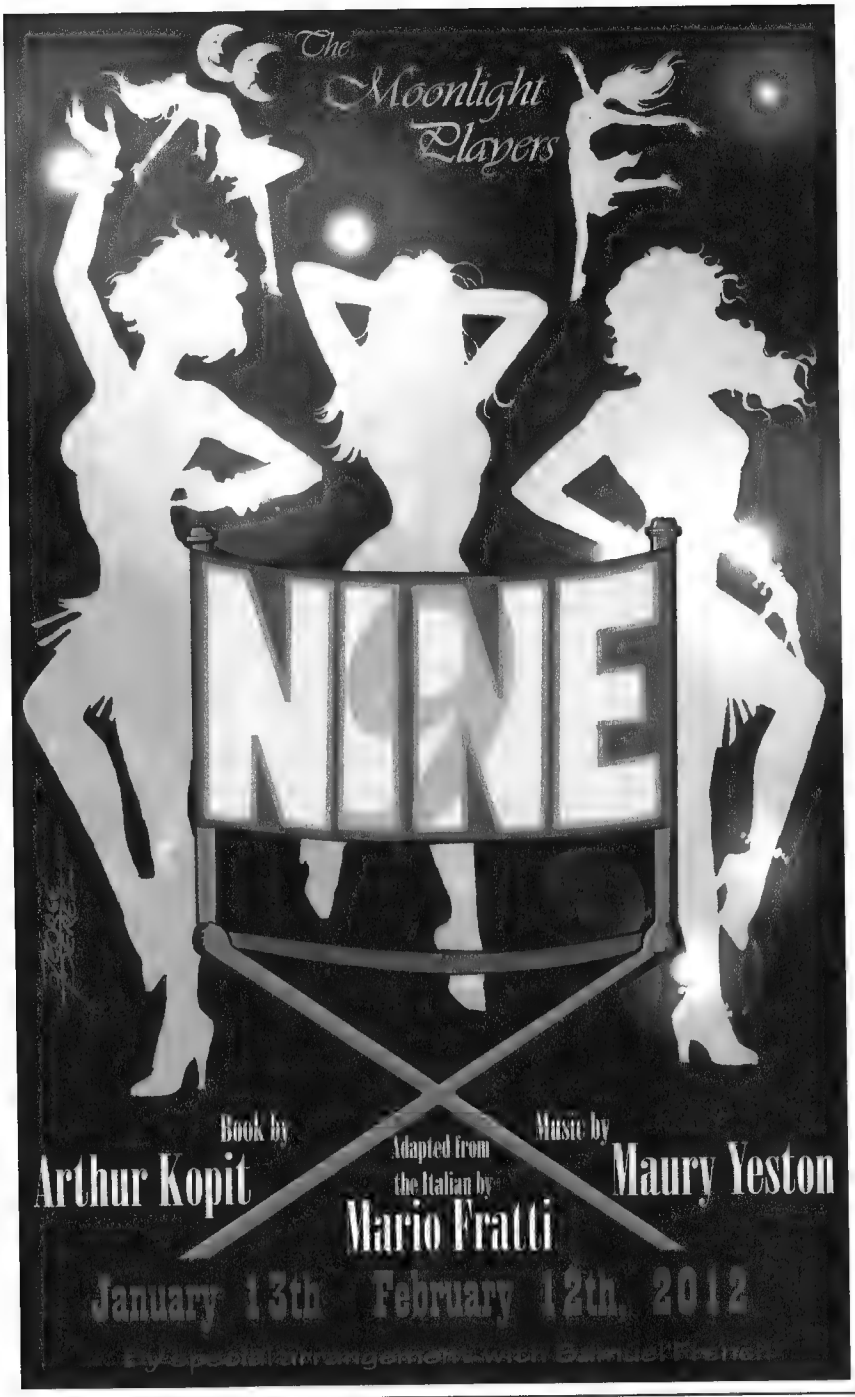
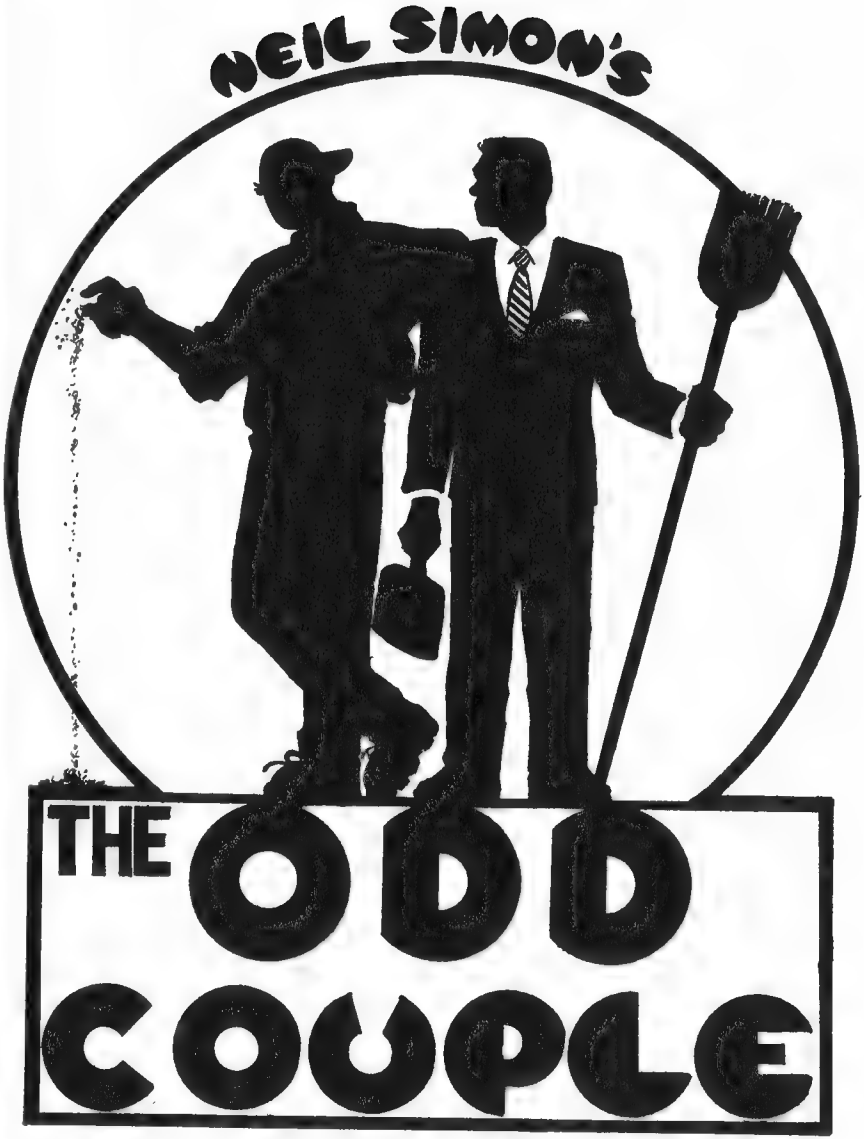

The Moonlight Players
The
FANTASTICKS
April 29th-
May 22nd
2011
GEORGE PEREZ
Book & Lyrics by
Tom Jones
Music by
Harvey Schmidt
Based on "La Romanesques" by Edmond Rostand
Through special arrangement with MTI

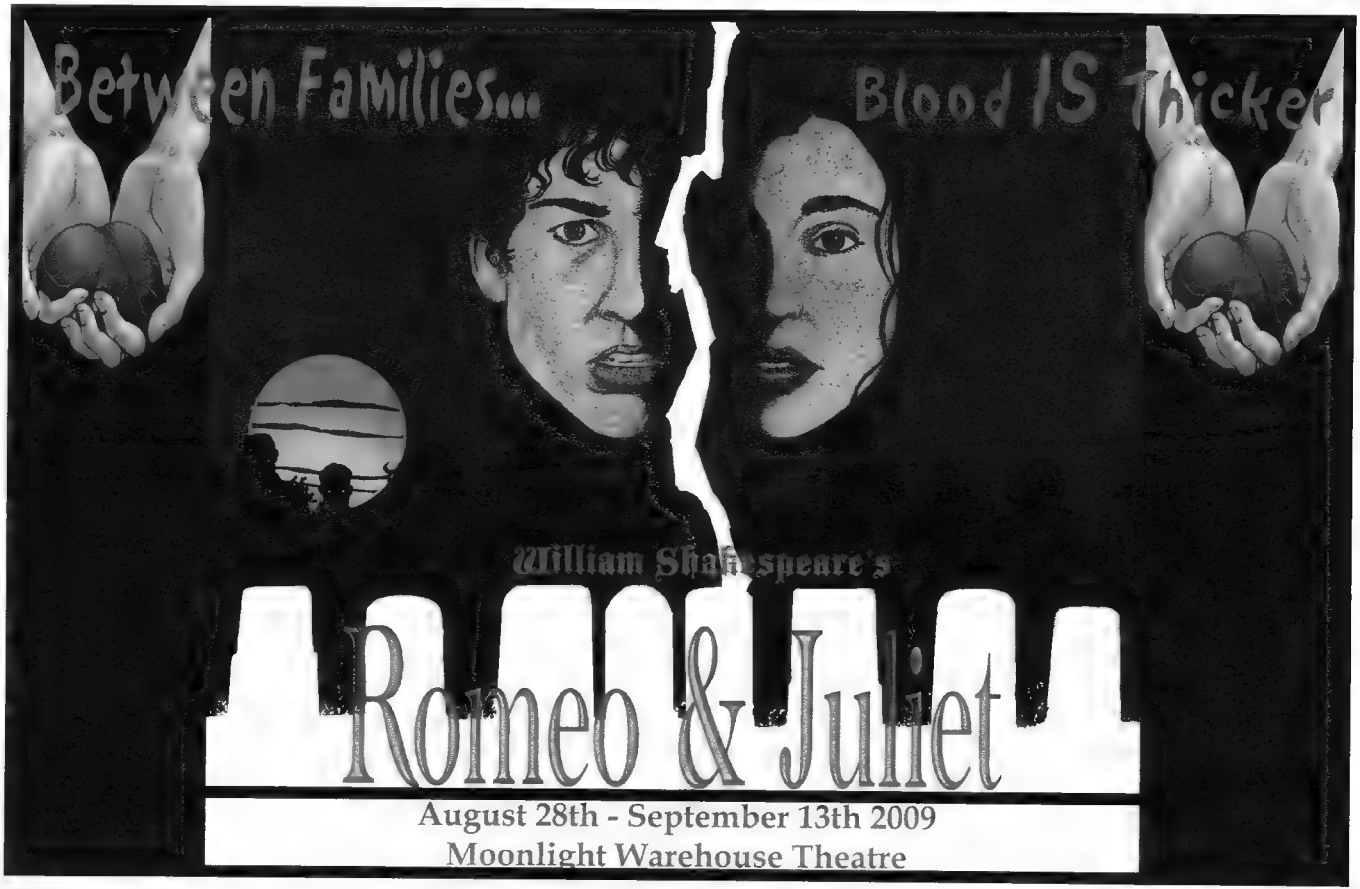

Sept. 10th - 26th 2010
William Shakespeare's
MACBETH

GILBERT and SULLIVAN'S
The MIKADO


The Moonlight Players
NINE
Book by
Arthur Kopit
Adapted from
the Italian by
Mario Fratti
Music by
Maury Yeston
January 13th February 12th 2012


NEIL SIMON'S
THE ODD COUPLE

The Moonlight Players present
The Pirates of Penzance
by
Gilbert & Sullivan
July 30th - August 22nd 2010


Between Families...
Blood IS Thicker
William Shakespeare's
Romeo & Juliet
August 28th - September 13th 2009
Moonlight Warehouse Theatre

And, rounding off the gallery, are two traditional sketches...

Black Widow (*above*) and Scarlet Witch (*right*) are from the collection of Rich Schell.

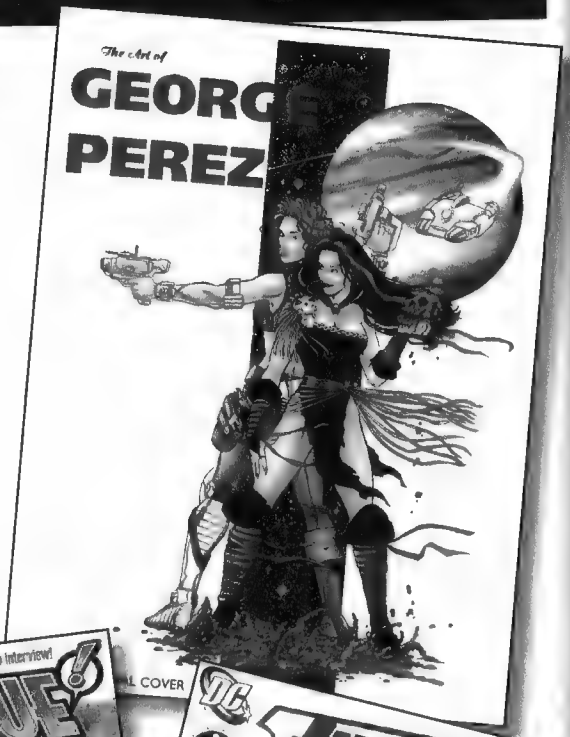
Best-
George Perez
'99

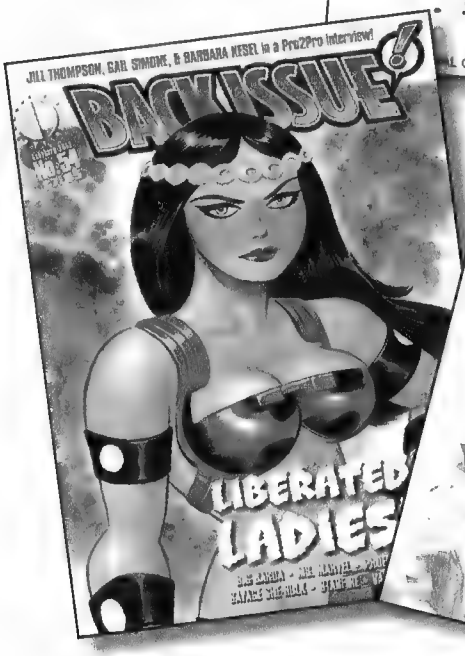
NEW & UPCOMING RELEASES

THE ART OF GEORGE Pérez
January 2012
$49.99
IDW Publishing
(idwpublishing.com)

BACK ISSUE! #54
January 2012
$7.95
TwoMorrows
(www.twomorrows.com)

JUSTICE LEAGUE
OF AMERICA #50 PROJECT
2011
$15.00
Hero Initiative/DC Comics



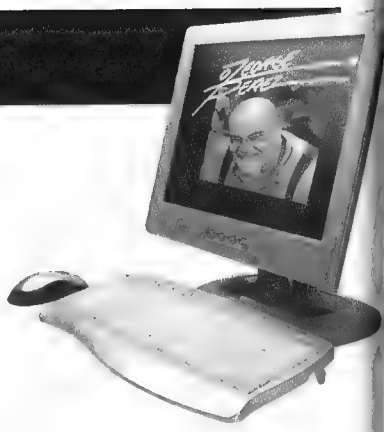


THE DC UNIVERSE BY ALAN MOORE HC
February 2012
Written by Alan Moore; Art by Jim Aparo, Brian Bolland, Paris Cullins, George Freeman, Dave Gibbons, Klaus Janson, Kevin O'neill, Joe Orlando, George Pérez, Kurt Schaffenberger, Curt Swan, Rick Veitch, Al Williamson, Bill Willingham, Jim Baikie and Michael Lopez; Cover by Brian Bolland

The work of Alan Moore (*Watchmen, V For Vendetta, The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*) during the 1980s is a benchmark for great stories with fresh approaches to iconic characters. Collected in this volume are all of Moore's Superman and Batman stories, including *Action Comics* #583, *Batman Annual* #11, *Batman: The Killing Joke, DC Comics Presents* #85, *Detective Comics* #549-550, *Green Lantern* #188, *The Omega Men* #26-27, *Secret Origins* #10, *Superman* #423, *Tales of the Green Lantern Corps Annual* #2 & 3, *Superman Annual* #11 and *VIGILANTE* #17-18, plus *Voodoo* #1-4, *Deathblow: By Blows* #1-3 and more!

DC Universe
304pg.
Color
Hardcover
$39.99 US
On Sale February 8, 2012

GEORGE PÉREZ ON THE 'NET



There are countless websites with materials relating to George and his work. Here are some premier ones, each one verified at publication time by the editor.

Start your navigation on the 'Net at

www.george-perez.com

(redirects to: http://perez.comicbookseries.info/)

then head on over to ***www.titanstower.com***
(Titans Tower - the most comprehensive Titans resource)

www.theartistschoice.com
(The Artist's Choice - Pérez Art available for purchase)

www.atariage.com/comics/index.html
(Atari Age - Swordquest comics online)

www.fortunecity.com/business/bustwo/354/
(JLA Avengers Port)

www.facebook.com/pages/George-Perez-Fan-Page/385542437272
(Facebook George Pérez Fan Page with regular postings by George himself)

As this magazine continues we will be adding more sites to the list. Please, if you know of any we have not included, e-mail ***tlorenzp@yahoo.com***

CONFIRMED CONVENTION APPEARANCES

MEGACON 2012
February 17-19, 2012 • Orlando, Florida • Megacon (megaconvention.com)

PITTSBURGH COMICON
April 20-22, 2012 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania • Pittsburgh Expo (www.pittsburghcomicon.com)

NEW ORLEANS COMIC CON
January 28-29, 2012 • New Orleans, LA

LONDON SUPER CON
February 25-26, 2012 • London, England

PHILADELPHIA COMIC CON
June 1-3, 2012 • Philadelphia, PA

CHICAGO COMIC CON
August 9-12, 2012 • Chicago, Illinois

Fans of Alex Garcia's art will be sure to enjoy Marcus Mébès's new book, **RATS! and Other Frustrations.**

RATS! is a collection of three short stories and two poems, featuring stunning art in "George Pérez" style by Alejandro Garcia. From the "Twilight Zone"ish title story, to a fairy tale, to a surprising retelling of the

"Beowulf" saga from the viewpoints of a Civil War soldier and a Caddo Indian, this collection is sure to bring enjoyment and provoke you to think hard about how people treat each other. As with *PACESETTER*, just go to Lulu.com and search for "Rats Mebes" and you're ready to go!

Benefit Comic Update: JAPAN NEED HEROES Still Needs Your Help!

1) We will be distributed not only DIRECT from those who purchase via the Kickstarter campaign, but the book will ALSO be available this fall in comic stores through DIAMOND COMICS DISTRIBUTORS

2) The book will ALSO be handled in its digital distribution by COMIXOLOGY with 100% of the proceeds going direct to the Japan Society

3) Stan Lee himself has already graciously provided the INTRODUCTION FOREWORD to the book and leant his name and PR to the title.

4) Marvel and DC creators under contract have been granted permission to work on the project.

5) We've ALREADY RAISED OVER $20,000 and still going...

6) We have a NEW Kickstarter Campaign:
www.kickstarter.com/projects/1932174840/japan-needs-heroes-ii

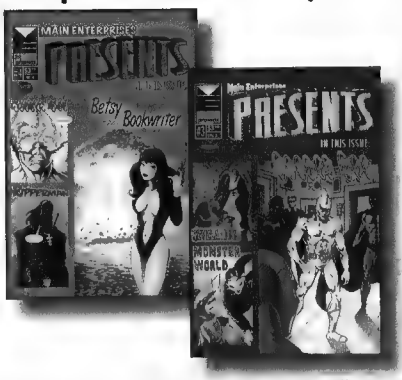
STILL NEED WORK

There is STILL time for those of you who haven't sent in your works yet. Also there are still writers who we haven't had scripts from and comic artists who NEED scripts. Remember these are 1-4 page stories, but they can go longer if you need. YES they can be pin-ups.

Send files either via FILESERVE.COM or via FTP:
FTP: **ftp.activemediaprints.com** • Username: **JapanNeedsHeroes** • Password: **1Thanks!** • *Just create a folder with your name...*

ANY questions please email me directly! Benny Powell • **redgiantcomics@aol.com**

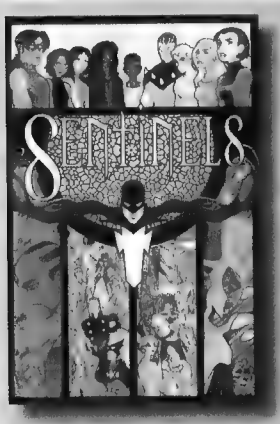
http://mainenterprises.ecrater.com

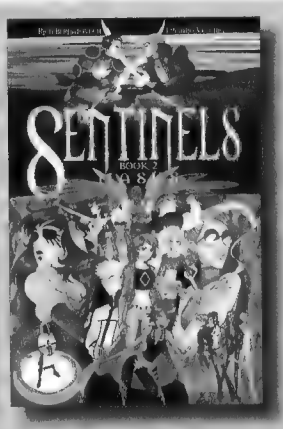


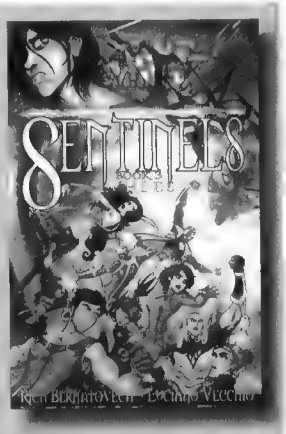
The latest issue of our newest comic anthology includes "WAR" Part 1, a continuation of the story from the ***Cosmic Man*** comic book, by Steve Keeter, **TONY LORENZ** and Jeff Austin. In this tale, the super team of Cosmic Man, Phoenix, The Spy, Raven, Night Man, Acrobat, The Simian, Sunwing and The Titan brace for the alien invasion to come. $5.00, shipping included, for this fantastic 40 page issue with full color covers.

Welcome to the home of Main Enterprises! Here you'll discover our magazines, comics and fanzines we have availble. We've been putting out fun publications since the early 70s and don't plan on stopping now! You can send your orders to Jim Main, 13 Valley View Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804, If you live in a country outside the USA and want to order our items, contact jmain44@aol.com to make arrangements. Dealer rates available when ordering 3 or more copies of most recent books. Use email address for inquiries.

And, we are always looking for material for our line of magazines and comics!







Sentinels Book 1: Footsteps, **Book 2: Masks** and **Book 3: Echoes** are $14.95 each, which includes shipping inside the U.S. (outside U.S. shipping will be charged and varies depending on country).

PÉREZ FANS!
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NYC, NY 10019
Please make payments to: **Rich Bernatovech**

Released by Drumfish Productions.
Official website: **www.sentinelsonline.com**

Don't forget to check out ***The Artist's Choice*** *website for original George Pérez art, as well as the works of many other artists!*

www.theartistschoice.com
You'll be glad you did!

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

Hey Pérez fans! How would you like to own an original piece of art inked by the man himself—George Pérez—for a mere $5.00? Well you can have a chance by purchasing a $5.00 raffle ticket. You could win a piece of art penciled by Manny Fiori and inked by George. The art is on full size 11 x 17 comic art board and the lucky winner will have the art personalized by George. The deadline for purchasing the raffle tickets is 12/31/2011 and you can purchase as many as you like. All money from the sales of the raffle tickets will go to the Wounded Warriors Project. So don't miss out on this chance of a lifetime to win a choice piece of art and contribute to a good cause!

&

PACESETTER The George Pérez Magazine

For ALL things TITANS, the ***best*** online resource for news, archives, art and history is **www.titanstower.com**.
For ALL things PÉREZ the only ***complete*** online resource for news, art and more is **www.george-perez.com**

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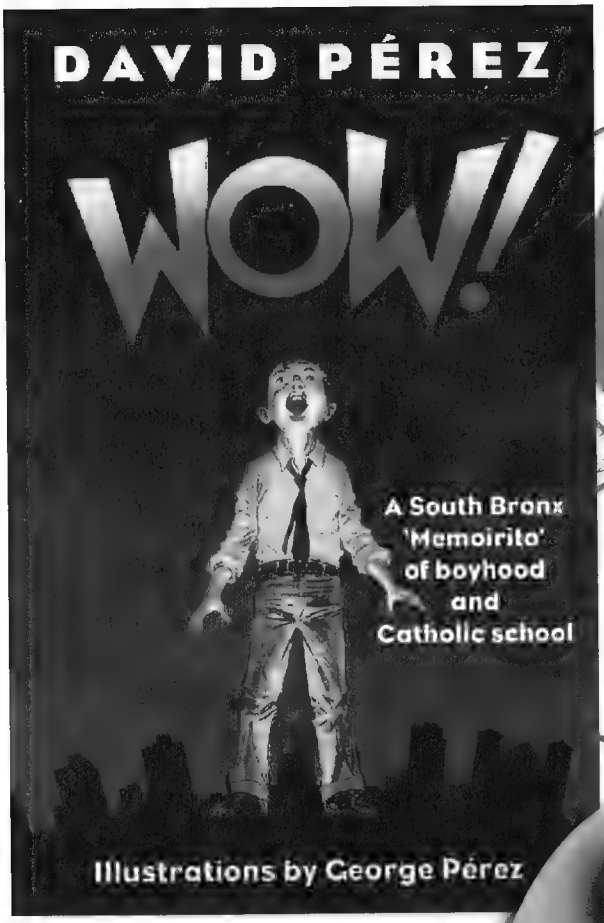

"If I could define my life's work and creativity in one word it would be: Storytelling. As a father, husband, activist, writer, editor and actor, I've discovered that it's all about the story, how to tell it and how to share it.

Welcome to my stories."

128 pages
$10.00 print version
$2.99 Kindle ebook
Available online at Amazon.com

And finally... a bonus: George's art for 1994's *Zorro* #8, from TOPPS.

Back issues of *The George Pérez Newsletter* and *Pacesetter* are still available in limited quantities!

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48 pages • Comic size
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$12.95 International
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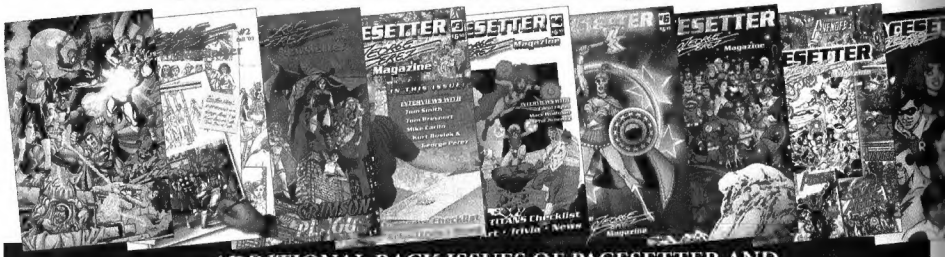
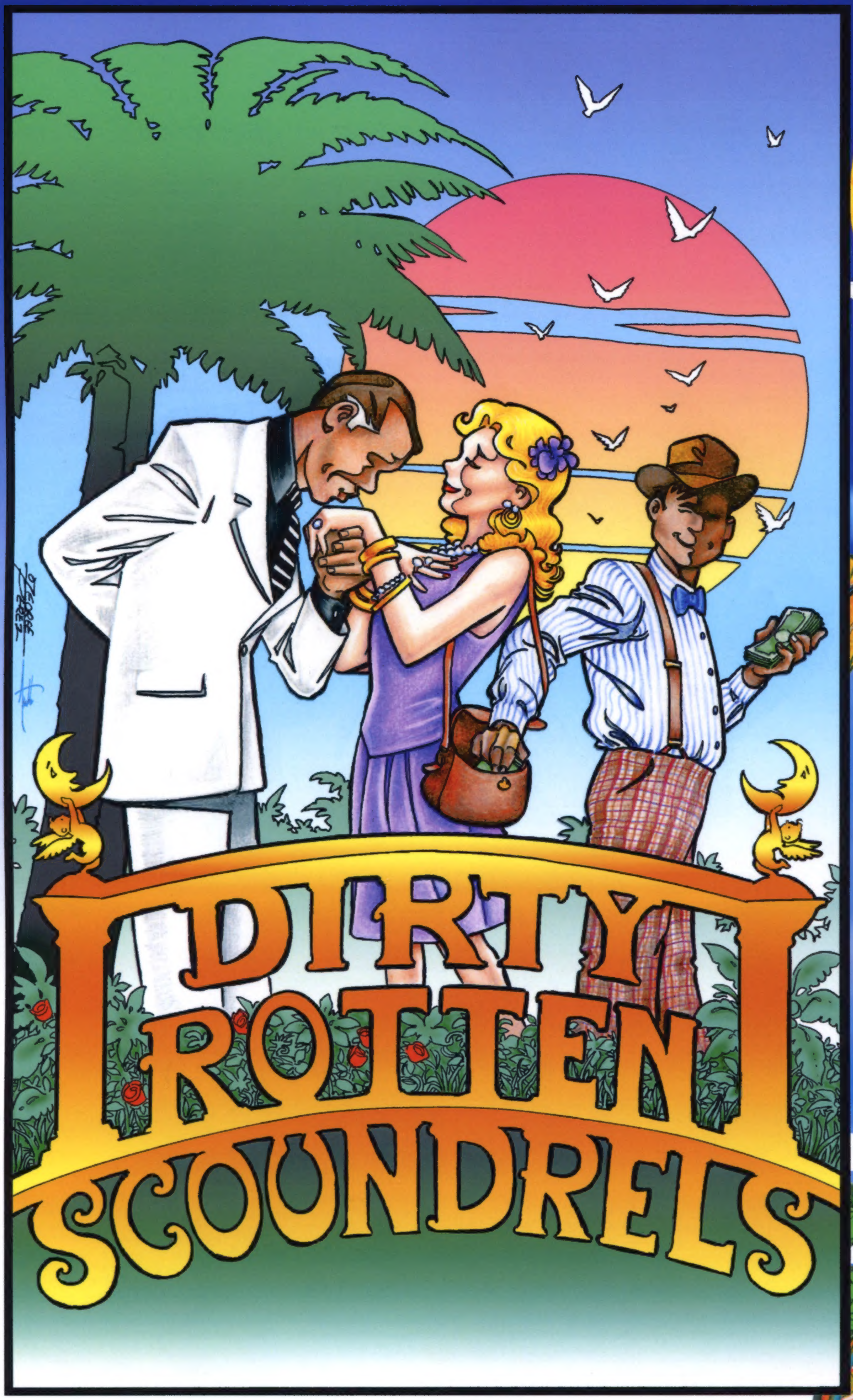
Postage Costs: In the U.S. add $1.00 for first copy, 50¢ for each additional. Canada, add $1.50 first copy, 75¢ for each additional. International, add $2.00 first copy, 95¢ each additional.



ADDITIONAL BACK ISSUES OF PACESETTER AND THE GEORGE PÉREZ NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT LULU.COM
Email Tony at TLorenzP@yahoo.com to check availability

Come Join the Fun! Contributors Always Needed!
Articles, Artwork, Photos, Fan Art, Trivia, News, Checklist Assistance, etc...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